

BIG PLAYS

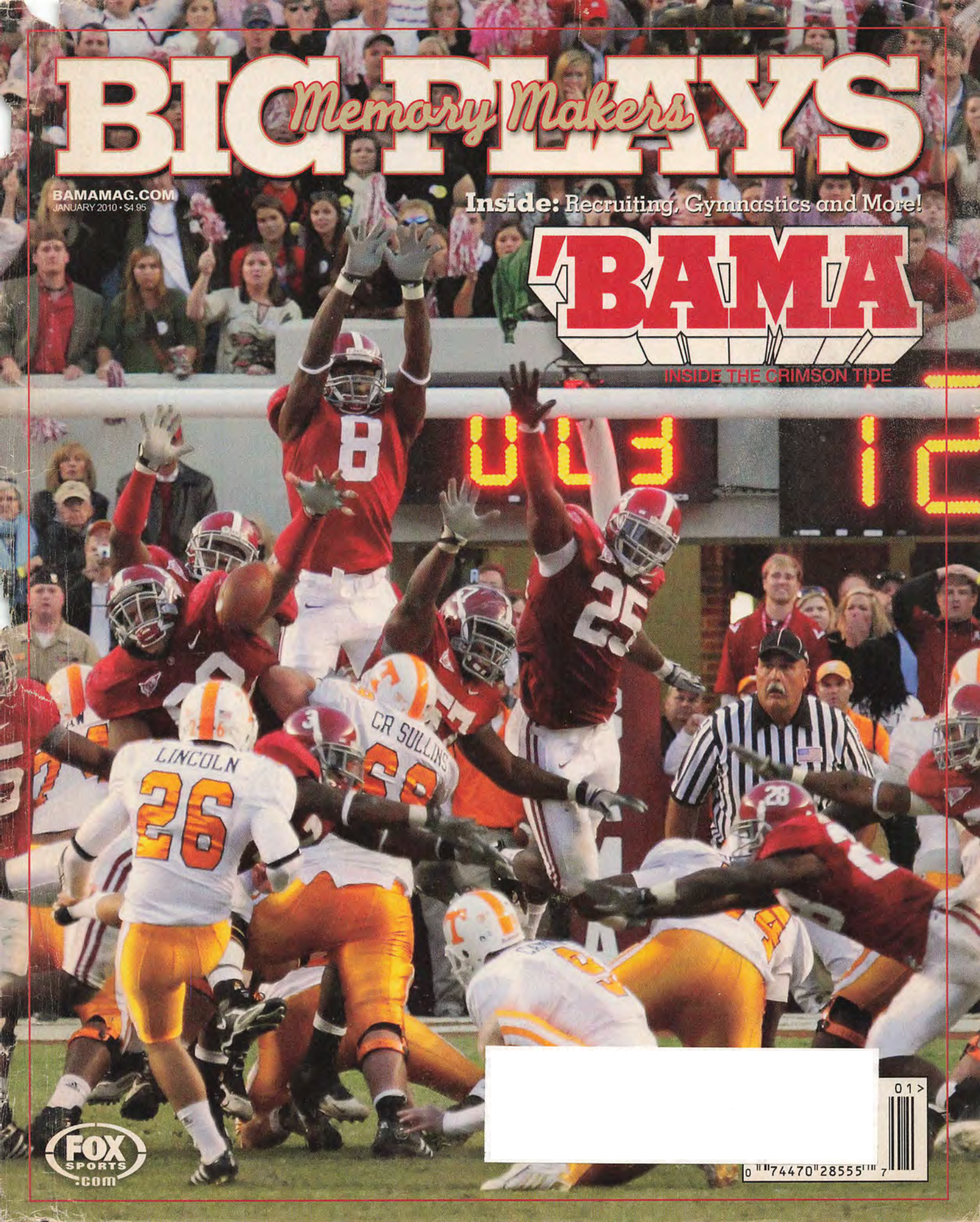
Memory Makers

BAMAMAG.COM
JANUARY 2010 • \$4.95

Inside: Recruiting, Gymnastics and More!

'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE



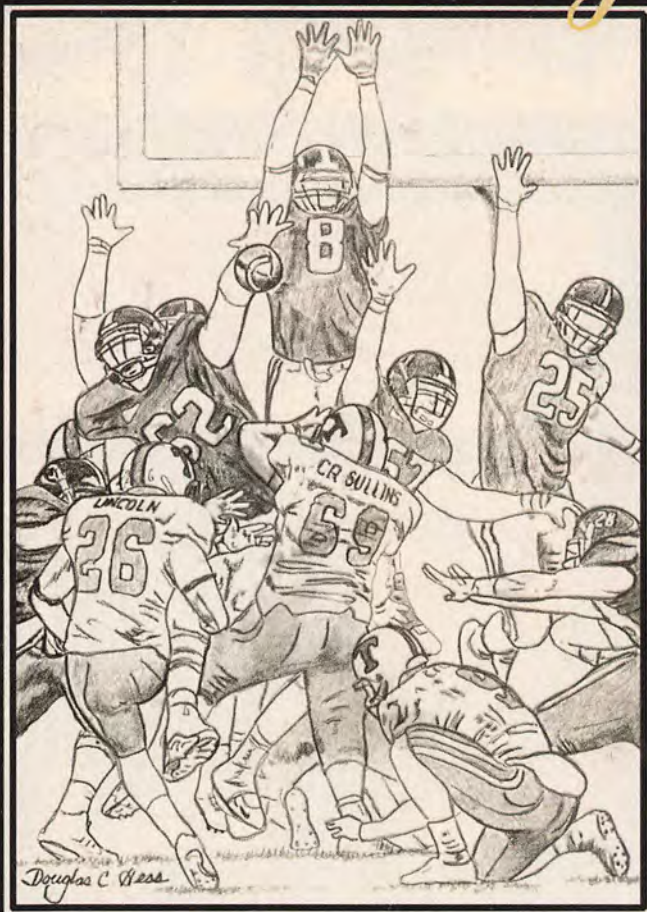
FOX
SPORTS
.com

01 >



0 11174470 28555 7

"Rocky Block"



Artist's sketch for original oil painting

FULL COLOR Limited Edition PRINT & CANVAS

"It's blocked!" "It's blocked!" "It's blocked!" Cody ran down the field, ripping his helmet off, with his dreads blowing in the wind as Bryant Denny stadium exploded into celebration.



Sample of artist's recent work.

DOUGLAS C. HESS

Artist Douglas C. Hess captures the moment of "Mount Cody's" historic block of Tennessee's 44 yard field goal as the final seconds ticked off the clock adding another chapter in Alabama football lore that will be remembered forever.

With the game on the line, Alabama was on the verge of losing everything - a dominating season and the dream of a National Championship. That's when Terance Cody, at 6' 5" and 354 pounds, blocked his second kick, preserving a 12-10 victory over Tennessee touching off a wild celebration as Bryant Denny stadium exploded.

Each print includes a gold seal and certificate of authenticity.

LIMITED EDITION PRINT (Image Size 25" x 17")

REGULAR EDITION (UNFRAMED)	Retail \$125.00
ARTIST PROOF (UNFRAMED)	Retail \$195.00
MINIATURE PRINT (Image Size 7" x 10 1/8") (UNFRAMED)	Retail \$25.00
MINIATURE PRINT (FRAMED)	Retail \$99.95 Plus \$16.00 Shipping & Handling
Shipping & Handling	\$12.00 per print order

VINTAGE CANVAS EDITION (Image Size 25" x 17")

Each truly unique Vintage Canvas Edition features the rich saturated colors, texture and beauty of the original oil painting.

REGULAR CANVAS (UNFRAMED)	Retail \$395.00
HAND EMBELLISHED CANVAS A/P (UNFRAMED)	Retail \$995.00

Each Hand-Embellished Canvas edition is personally hand-embellished by the original artist, Douglas C. Hess. The artist will highlight the canvas, adding layers of oil paint with unique brush strokes. This will truly make each canvas one-of-a-kind, enhancing beauty, adding depth and bringing the works to life.

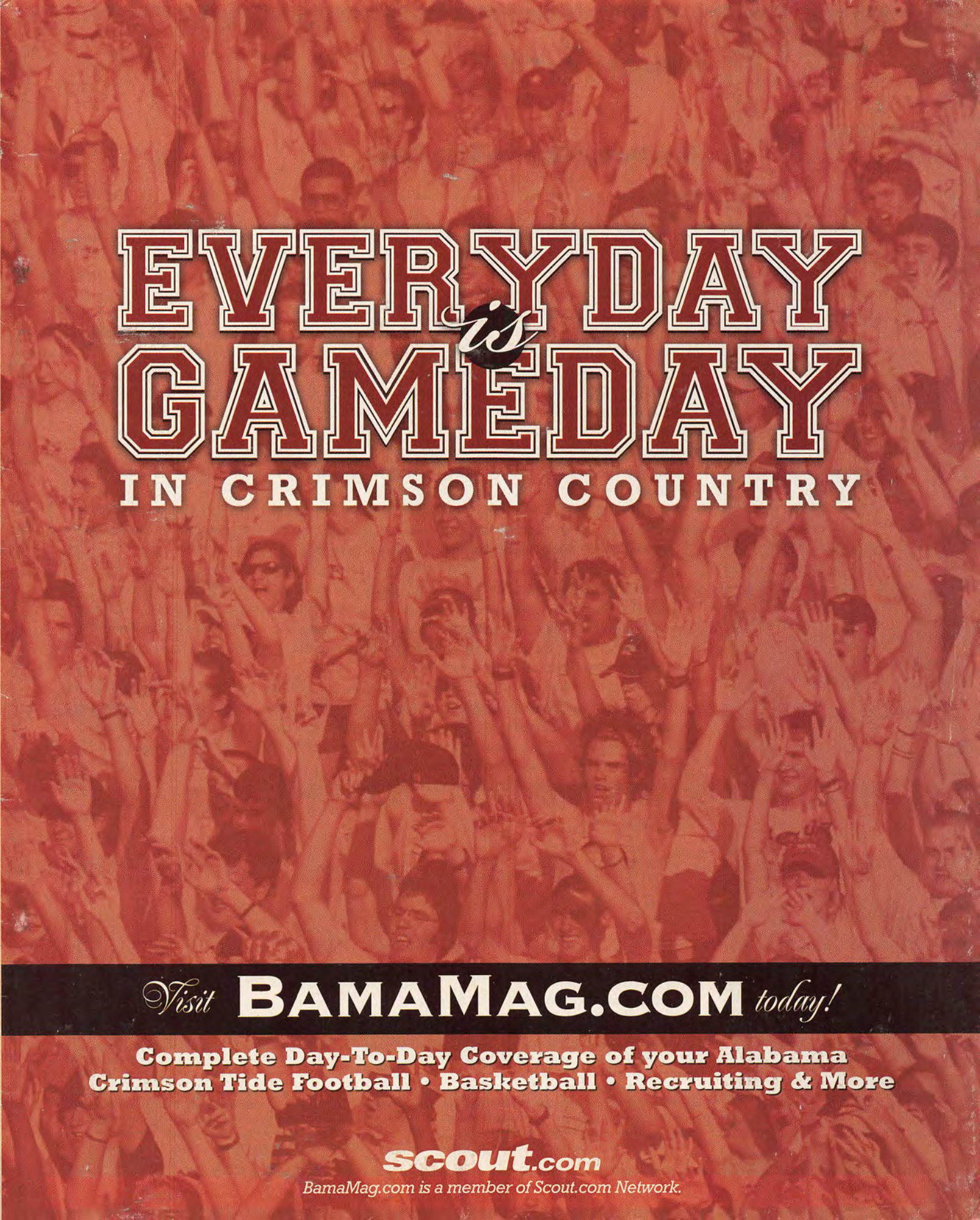
Shipping & Handling	\$16.00 per canvas order
Standard dealer discount available	Prices subject to change with notice.

PRE-PUBLICATION ORDERS RECEIVE A FREE MINIATURE PRINT

Pre-Holiday Release

CALL TOLL FREE 1-888-771-2364

Published and Distributed By Vintage House Publishing Co., Inc.
117 Wood Creek Drive • Madison, AL 35758 • www.douglashess.com



EVERYDAY *is* GAMEDAY IN CRIMSON COUNTRY

Visit **BAMAMAG.COM** *today!*

**Complete Day-To-Day Coverage of your Alabama
Crimson Tide Football • Basketball • Recruiting & More**

scout.com

BamaMag.com is a member of Scout.com Network.



'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE MAGAZINE

Editor
KIRK MCNAIR

Recruiting Reporter
ANDREW BONE

Feature Reporters
CARY L. CLARK, PETER EDMUND, ANDREW VARBLE II,
A. P. STEADHAM, MITCH DOBBS, JACOB MEACHAM,
JESSICA PARÉ, ROD BLACK, TIM GAYLE,
KEN ROGERS, LAURA OWENS

Photos
STUART MCNAIR, BENJAMIN COHEN, BARRY FIKES,
BUTCH DILL, CAMILLE SIZEMORE,
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Assistant To Editor
VERA DOWDLE

scout.com
Scout Publishing, LLC.

Senior Director, Scout Publishing
Alan McDonald

**Executive Director,
Network Development & Marketing**
Joel Cox

Director Of Scouting
Scott Kennedy

Advertising Director
David Stirt

Ad Traffic Manager
Mike Dempsey

Recruiting Editor
Dave Telep

Photography
Getty Images

Creative Director
Jay Torrell

Production Manager
Shannon Coffey

Graphic Designer
Garth French

Subscriptions:

Order online at bamamag.com
(reduced online rate \$39.95)
or call 888-979-0979.

Customer Service:
Call 888-979-0979.

To Advertise In 'Bama, Inside The Crimson Tide:

Contact Dwight Johnson at Dwight@Scout.com
OR Mitch Green at 1-800-239-9090.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Fellow Crimson Tide Fans,

When Tennessee placekicker Daniel Lincoln lined up to attempt a 44-yard field goal on the last play of the game against Alabama in Bryant-Denny Stadium, my thoughts turned to New Orleans. I knew Pasadena—site of this year's BCS National Championship Game—was out, but maybe Bama could go the rest of the way unscathed and make it to the Sugar Bowl, which would not be a bad consolation prize.

As everyone knows, Terrence Cody played his way into a commemorative painting (or two or three) with his second blocked field goal of the fourth quarter to preserve Alabama's undefeated season and national championship hopes.

Alabama's football history is punctuated by big plays and the players who made them, and it has been a pleasure to chronicle many of them. In some cases, a big play enables a team to continue a championship season, and that is the impetus of the moment. An obvious example of that would be something like Antonio Langham's interception and return for touchdown against Florida in the Southeastern Conference Championship Game, which sent the Crimson Tide to the Sugar Bowl to face number one Miami for the national title. As everyone knows, a handful of big plays—and having better players and coaches—resulted in Alabama adding another championship trophy to the case.

Other great plays didn't result in championships, but nonetheless are unforgettable because they came against key rivals. Alabama cannot play Auburn without memories of Kenny Stabler's run in the mud or Van Tiffin's field goal as time expired. Cody's field goal block (actually he had two fourth quarter field goal blocks, but there was no hope if Tennessee had made the last one) goes into the books with things like Phillip Doyle's game-ending field goal against the Vols.

I am not a fan of the BCS Championship Series. It renders immaterial all but one bowl game. Before that, two or even three bowl games might figure into the national championship. And, yes, there might be more than one national champion, but unless there is going to be a playoff, that's a reasonable outcome. (There isn't going to be a national championship playoff until someone figures out how to keep the NCAA from getting its hands on the loot and making sure the teams that make the championship playoff attractive get their fair share.)

As things stand as of this writing, three teams had control of their 2009 destinies—Florida, Alabama, and Texas. Florida and Alabama seemed on a collision course to the national championship play-in game, also known as the SEC Championship Game. If everything goes as expected (and, of course, it doesn't), that means the winner of that game would play Texas in the BCS National Championship Game in Pasadena after all other bowl games have been played.

If Alabama gets to that game, I'll still say it's a poor system. But I'll get over it. ■

Sincerely,

Kirk McNair

Vol. 32, Issue 5 (ISSN 0195-0975 USPS 489-470) January, 2010

'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE magazine is published monthly, 10 times a year (September-June) by Scout Publishing, LLC 2003 Western Ave, Suite 700, Seattle, WA 98121. Basic subscription rate is \$44.95. Single copy price is \$4.95. **SUBSCRIBERS:** If the post office alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligations unless we receive a corrected address. **POSTMASTER:** Please send all change of address forms to: 'Bama, Inside the Crimson Tide 1916 Pike Place, Suite 12-250, Seattle, WA 98101-1097. Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, WA and additional mailing offices. Please allow three weeks for change of address. Reproduction or use, in whole or in part, of editorial or graphic content in any manner is strictly prohibited without the prior express written permission of Scout Publishing. All letters to 'BAMA magazine will be treated as intended for publication and are subject to 'BAMA magazine's unrestricted right to edit. Publisher is not responsible for any unsolicited art, photographs or manuscripts. 'BAMA magazine is an independent source of news and features relating to Alabama athletic programs. Scout Publishing, 'BAMA magazine and their officers, directors and stockholders are not authorized, sponsored or sanctioned by any university, athletic conference, or athletic governing body or any of their agencies. © 2010 Scout Publishing, LLC and 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE magazine. All rights reserved.



JANUARY 2010 • ISSUE FIVE

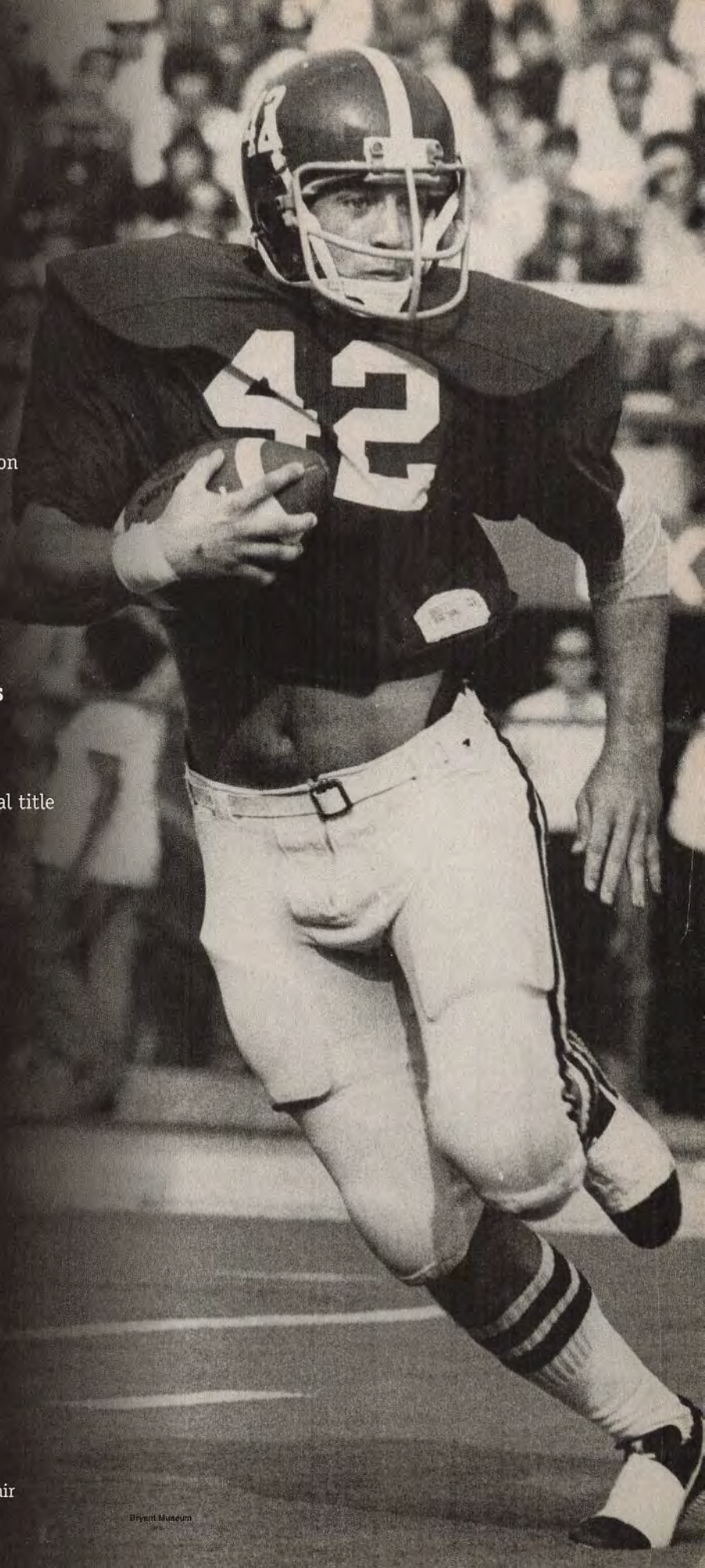
Features

- 6 **Football Takes Big Ones**
Alabama Has Had Many Memorable Plays
by Kirk McNair
- 11 **Bowls Big To Bama**
Crimson Tide will bowl for 57th time this season
by Kirk McNair
- 17 **Leadership**
Crimson Tide fills the roles impressively
by Tim Gayle
- 20 **Julio Is Back**
Star receiver draws attention from opponents
by Ken Rogers
- 24 **FoxSports.com 2010 Draft Prospects**
Top 5 players rated by position
by FoxSports.com
- 28 **Aiming High**
Experienced Tide gymnasts want fifth national title
by Andrew Varble II
- 32 **Prep Prospects**
Tide is reloading, not rebuilding
by Andrew Bone
- 36 **Wade Set Bar High**
Bryant didn't play for Wade but admired him
by Lewis Bowling
- 44 **Tide Fans Decide**
Vote for members of Team of Decade

Departments

- 4 Letter From Editor
- 13 2009-10 Bowl Schedule
- 14 Alabama Bowl Records
- 15 Alabama Bowl History
- 16 Alabama Bowl By Bowl
- 31 2010 Gymnastics Roster
- 35 Football Recruiting Hot List
- 40 'BAMA Scorecard
- 45 Team of Decade Ballot
- 46 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

Cover photo of Terrence Cody field goal block by Stuart McNair



FOOTBALL

By Kirk McNair

Football Takes Big Ones

Alabama has had many memorable plays

In the introduction to our new book, "Game Changers: The Greatest Plays in Alabama Football History," we noted that those in the book are among the greatest "so far." We didn't have to wait long to witness a potential great one for Volume II.

When Terrence Cody got his thigh-sized left arm in the path of Tennessee placekicker Daniel Lincoln's potential game-winning field goal on the final play of the 2009 Alabama-Tennessee game, there was an additional legend added to this legendary rivalry.

Former Alabama quarterback Jay Barker raised the question: "Are most of the great plays from games against Alabama's top rivals?" Not to plug the book, but to make the point, a large number of plays in "Game Changers" do come from games against Tennessee and Auburn, the teams considered to be Bama's biggest rivals. That's in part because the games are played each year, and so each year there are more opportunities for fans and sportswriters and television commentators to play the "Remember when?" game. And Alabama plays against those teams more since they are annual games.

A game after Cody's game-winning block came Julio Jones' 73-yard touchdown run against LSU to win the Southeastern Conference Western Division championship. The play will be brought up when Alabama goes to Baton Rouge in 2010.

Sometimes plays are huge on Saturday night, not so big as the season and subsequent seasons unfold. That's not likely to be the case with either the Cody or Jones plays.

Unquestionably, a list of greatest plays in Alabama football history includes a large number against Tennessee, Auburn and LSU. Bama snatched victory against the Vols when Roman Harper forced a fumble at the goalline in the 2005 game and when Stacy Harrison blocked a Vols' field goal attempt and Philip Doyle ended the game with a 47-yard field goal.



Julio Jones went 73 yards
for touchdown vs. LSU

SPORTS ★ CONCERTS ★ THEATRE

SECTION
ANY TICKET

EVENT
ANY EVENT

VENUE
ANYWHERE

www.TicketSolutions.com



TICKET SOLUTIONS

PROVIDING UNFORGETTABLE
ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCES

Order Tickets Online or Call Toll Free

800.477.5285

TICKET SOLUTIONS OFFERS:

- ★ Premium Seats
- ★ Sold-out Events
- ★ College Sports
- ★ Professional Sports
- ★ Major Concerts
- ★ Broadway/Off-Broadway
- ★ Vegas Theatre Events

SECTION
ANY TICKET

EVENT
ANY EVENT

VENUE
ANYWHERE

www.TicketSolutions.com

Stuart McNeil

Game Changers

The **Greatest Plays** in Alabama Football History

"Outstanding combination of stories and photographs for the Crimson Tide fan!"

By 'BAMA Editor Kirk McNair • Foreword by Doug Layton

\$24.95 plus S&H and tax where applicable

Autograph by author at no additional charge

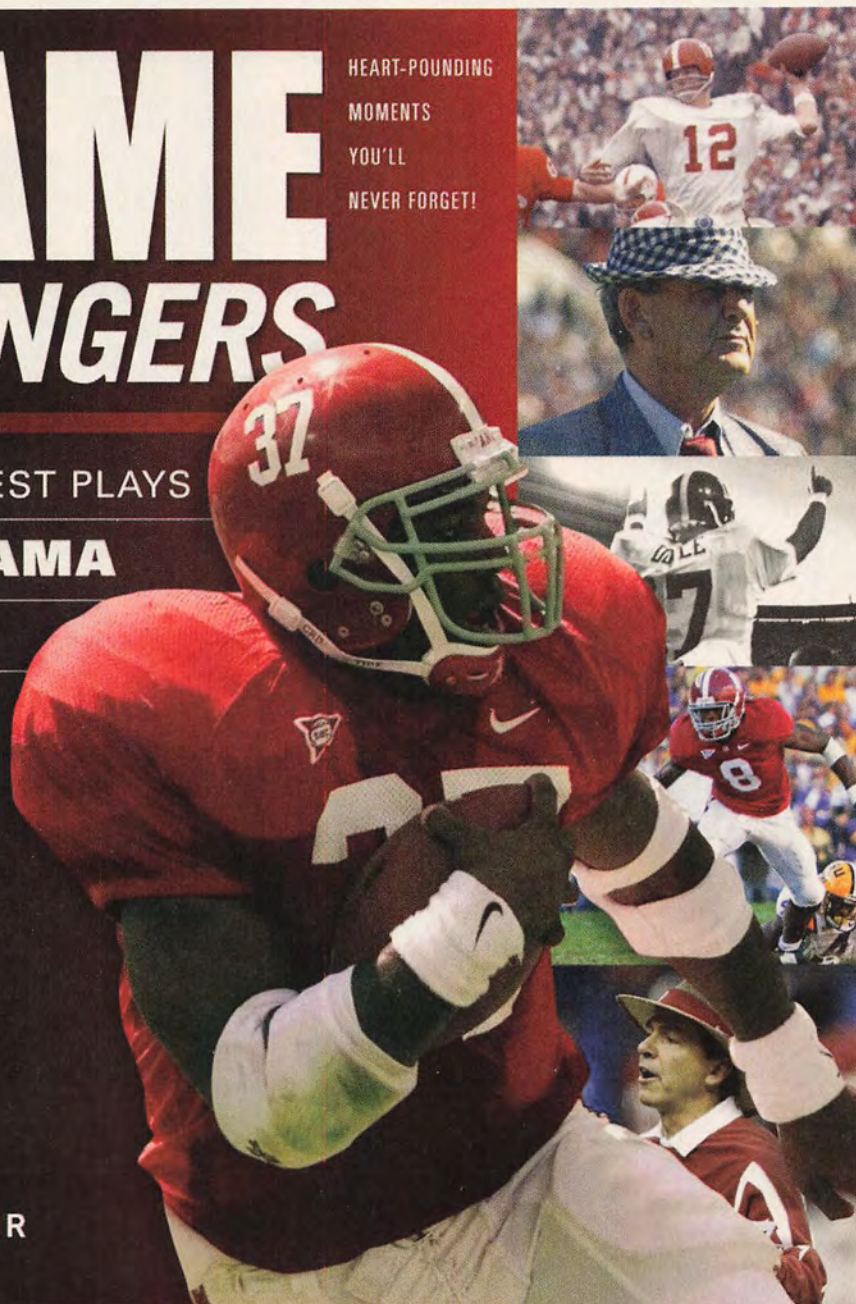
Call (205) 345-5074

GAME CHANGERS

HEART-POUNDING
MOMENTS
YOU'LL
NEVER FORGET!

THE GREATEST PLAYS
IN **ALABAMA**
FOOTBALL
HISTORY

KIRK McNAIR



Although it wasn't a game-winner, when Alabama opened the 1973 Tennessee game with an 80-yard pass from Gary Rutledge to Wayne Wheeler, it demonstrated the pass as a weapon in the wishbone, known only as a running offense before Alabama's Mal Moore (then Tide quarterbacks coach) began tinkering with it.

David Palmer had many great plays at Alabama as a receiver, runner, quarterback, and kick return specialist. No one likes ties (now a thing of the past with overtime), but in 1993 Palmer rescued the Tide from almost sure defeat at the hands of Tennessee when he ran in from quarterback on a two-point conversion attempt.

Alabama has had huge plays against Auburn, most notably Kenny Stabler's run in the mud to defeat the Tigers in 1967. Dennis Riddle took a short pass from Freddie Kitchens to give Bama victory over Auburn in 1996. Ray Ogden's 107-yard kickoff return ignited the Tide to victory in 1964 and Andrew Zow's touchdown pass to Jason McAddley did the same at Auburn in 2001. No one who saw Linnie Patrick's back-to-back runs in 1981 will forget Bryant becoming the winningest coach in college football history against Auburn.

Most memorable, perhaps, is Van Tiffin's 52-yard field goal as time expired in the 1985 game.

Last second field goals to win games are dramatic. Jamie Christenson had a handful for the Tide. Richard O'Dell's kick to beat Georgia Tech in Atlanta helped Alabama turn the corner in the early building days under Bryant. Michael Proctor put the lights out on Georgia in an electric night game in Tuscaloosa in 1994.

As Barker was easily reminded, sometimes the most memorable plays come against teams rarely played. No one who witnessed Alabama vs. Miami in the Sugar Bowl for the 1992 national championship will ever forget the Tide's George Teague's miraculous takeaway from the Hurricanes' Lamar Thomas. That play didn't win the national championship, but it has been emblematic of the many outstanding plays in that game that resulted in Bama's 12th national championship.

Teague would never have had the chance to make that play if it hadn't been for another unforgettable moment in Alabama football history. In the first Southeastern Conference Championship Game ever, at the end of the 1992 season in Birmingham's Legion Field, it was Alabama vs. Florida (familiar?). With the game tied late in the fourth quarter and overtime looking like a distinct possibility, Antonio Langham stepped in front of a Shane Matthews pass and returned it 27 yards for a game- and conference championship-winning touchdown.

Anyone paying attention to Alabama football these days knows there is a difference between "goals" and "process." Unquestionably, Alabama Coach Nick Saban is correct that the process is all-important when it comes to developing the kind of football team that can win championships. But Alabama fans aren't under the same constraints as Crimson Tide coaches and players. The Bama

Nation was nurtured on national championships and that continues to be the standard.

As such, plays that have been instrumental in winning national titles are understandably important in Alabama memory and in the "Game Changers" book.

Legendary Alabama Coach Paul Bryant was among those who pointed out that big games will be decided by a handful of big plays. That hasn't changed.

Former Alabama Coach Gene Stallings talked about giving "football players the opportunity to make football plays."

Alabama began playing a form of football in 1892. Since then the Crimson Tide has won over 800 games, been national champion in 12 different seasons, is in the midst of its 30th 10-win season, has 21 SEC championships, and over 100 All-America players.

That success doesn't happen without a lot of big plays.



George Teague had big plays against Miami

Bryant Museum

No one knows the first play in Alabama football history. Coach E.B. Beaumont took a squad to Birmingham to play a team of high school all-stars on November 11, 1892, and won 56-0. The first play, lost to history, started something grand.

Many believe the beginning of football success for Alabama (and, indeed, the entire South) came with Bama's 9-7 win over Penn in 1922. That upset was as monumental as if Penn could defeat Bama today. The big "play" for Alabama? Shorty Propst recovered teammate Pooley Hubert's fumble in the end zone.

Alabama had many big plays in Rose Bowl victories, and it was participation in the Rose Bowl—the only bowl in the 1920s and 1930s—that separated the Crimson Tide from the rest of the pack in the South and made Bama one of the few truly national teams. Dixie Howell throwing passes to Don Hutson is legendary some 75 years hence. Johnny Mack Brown parlayed Rose Bowl heroism to becoming a cowboy movie star.

Chris Anderson had the longest rush in Alabama history, 96

yards against Temple in 1991. Freddie Kitchens completed a 94-yard touchdown pass to Michael Vaughn in the 1996 SEC Championship Game, and that's the longest in Alabama history.

Almost no one can remember a play that is among the greatest in Alabama football history, not even the key player in the play. In 1971 the Crimson Tide was coming off back-to-back five-loss seasons and opening up in Los Angeles against a Southern Cal team that was the pre-season favorite to win the national championship. A year earlier the Tide and Trojans had opened the season in Birmingham and USC had defeated Alabama 42-21 in a game that wasn't near as close as the final score.

Bama's first play of the 1971 season was Johnny Musso going around right end. That wouldn't have been a surprise to the Trojans, but the formation was. Alabama had secretly switched to the wishbone offense. The Tide upset USC that night and went on to

covered perfectly by the Golden Eagles' Jasper Faulk. Incredibly, the ball came down on Faulk's back and Prothro reached around him, clasped the ball to Faulk's back, and held on as the two tumbled head over heels to a first down at the one-yard line. Bama scored just before halftime and went on to victory.

Later in the season Prothro would have another great play, an 87-yard touchdown in a 31-3 rout of Florida. But late in the game, Prothro came down "wrong" in the end zone on an attempted reception and suffered a career-ending injury.

It is surprising that some not-so-great Alabama teams had some of the greatest plays. Bama's 1968 team was average by Alabama standards. When the Tide met Auburn in the final regular season game, Bryant pulled out a play of deception, inserting star linebacker Mike Hall at tight end. Scott Hunter passed to Hall for a key touchdown in the 24-16 win. Later Auburn Coach Shug Jordan said, "We were not fooled. We'd know Mike Hall if he put on a tuxedo and came in the game."

Hunter was involved in one of the most important games in college football history, the first televised prime time game against Ole Miss and Archie Manning in 1969. Hunter completed a late touchdown pass to George Ranager and Bama's defense managed a final stop against Manning to preserve a 33-32 win that was one of the most talked about games in the nation. The next summer Bryant, a proponent of defense, characterized it as "The worst football game I ever saw."

The 1985 Crimson Tide wasn't great, but had two great comebacks: the Van Tiffin kick to beat Auburn and Mike Shula passing to Al Bell to defeat Georgia in Athens.

Outstanding players like Joe Namath, Bobby Humphrey, Ozzie Newsome, Lee Roy Jordan, and Shaun Alexander had numerous big plays in extraordinary Alabama careers.

More often than not, offensive plays and last-second field goals are thought of for greatness. The obvious reason is that such great plays ordinarily result in scores. But there are huge defensive plays in Alabama history, including those noted by Teague and Langham.

Anyone making a list of great Alabama plays would have the goalline stand against Penn State in the Sugar Bowl at the end of the 1978 season at or near the top. Barry Krauss and company stopped the Nittany Lions and Alabama's 14-7 win produced the national championship.

Alabama has defeated Notre Dame only one time, but Cornelius Bennett's sack of Irish quarterback Steve Beuerlein in 1986 still reverberates, along with that of Derrick Thomas smashing of Penn State's Tony Sacca in 1988. Wayne Hamilton stopped a two-point conversion in Los Angeles as Alabama upset number one Southern Cal, 21-20, in 1977.

Dwayne Rudd's 88-yard interception return against Michigan in the 1997 Outback Bowl sent Stallings out with his 70th win in seven seasons.

More recently, Rashad Johnson had three interceptions, including one in overtime, as Alabama defeated LSU in Baton Rouge in 2008 to keep the Tide undefeated.

There are many more, and, undoubtedly, many more to come. ■



Johnny Musso led Tide to win over USC in first wishbone game

Bryant Museum

have the best record of any team in the nation in the 1970s—just as it had in the 1960s. The important thing is that Bryant might have been near the end of his career before that 1971 season.

"I think the wishbone energized Coach Bryant," Musso said later. "I think the two previous seasons took a lot of him. But he said, 'Enough is enough.' He got energized, got a new focus, and quickly turned the program around."

Bryant would coach for 12 more years and add three more national championships with the wishbone. Late in his career he was asked what he wanted to be remembered for. "I want to be remembered for turning the program around—twice," he said.

Alabama's 2005 team was good, not great, but produced one of the most memorable plays in football history. In the second game of the season, Alabama found itself trailing Southern Miss, 21-10, and facing fourth down late in the first half. The Tide decided to risk a long pass, and Brodie Croyle threw to Tyrone Prothro, who was

FOOTBALL

By Kirk McNair

Bowls Big To Bama

Crimson Tide will bowl for 57th time this season

It may be that Alabama is the nation's only college football team that has the name of a bowl game as a part of its fight song. Those who know the words and sing along with the Million Dollar Band "remember the Rose Bowl," in song at least. Alabama hasn't played in the Rose Bowl game since the end of the 1945 season, when Bama spanked Southern Cal, 34-14, so youngsters under the age of about 70 don't remember Bama in the Rose.

The Rose Bowl closed its shop after that. Southern teams were no longer welcome. Alabama had run up a 5-0-1 record against the best the west had to offer. Henceforth, games would be restricted to what is now the Pac-10 against the Big Ten. The BCS has opened that up a bit, but the Rose Bowl is not the same.

Even though this year's BCS national championship game will be played in the Rose Bowl Stadium in Pasadena, it will be following the watered down Rose Bowl game. (No offense to the Rose. The BCS system dilutes the importance of all but one post-season game.)

Even though the Crimson Tide got locked out of the Rose Bowl, it became the most famous of all bowl teams. This year's holiday game will be number 57, and no team has played in more bowl games.

Before the advent of the polls (the Associated Press began its system in 1933) and for a number of years after that, the Rose Bowl was considered the real national championship game; or, at least, it was considered more prestigious to win the Rose Bowl than to be AP national champion. As the bowl choices expanded, to the Big Four of Rose, Sugar, Orange and Cotton and a handful of others, a bowl game was considered primarily as a "reward for a good season," as coaches and others explained it.

Major Ogilvie scored touchdowns in four consecutive major bowl games

Bryant Museum

'It's unanimous. We're going to the Liberty Bowl.' His (Coach Bryant) vote was the only one that counted.

Billy Neighbors, one of Alabama's all-time great players, didn't remember it exactly like that. Coach Paul Bryant broached the possibility of the 1959 Alabama team playing in the Liberty Bowl. "We all knew it would mean another month of practice," Neighbors said. "Coach Bryant had us vote. I don't know one player who voted to play in the bowl game. Coach Bryant took up the ballots and we sat there while he opened them up one by one, looked at them and put them in a little pile. When he finished, he said, 'It's unanimous. We're going to the Liberty Bowl.' His vote was the only one that counted."

That Liberty Bowl game at the end of the 1959 season began a string of 24 consecutive bowl games under Bryant and 25 before Coach Ray Perkins' second team failed to qualify for a bowl game in 1984.

The extra practice time is valuable, some 18 days for those teams invited to play post-season games.

The AP was somewhat wishy-washy in the mid-1960s as it pandered to Notre Dame, which didn't participate in bowl games in those days. The AP's policy denied Bama a chance to win a third

consecutive national championship in 1966 when the Tide was the only team that was undefeated and untied. The crown went to Notre Dame, which had played for a tie against Michigan State. But eventually the AP decided it would award its national championship after bowl games had been played. Alabama caught some breaks in winning the 1964 national championship despite losing to Texas in the Orange Bowl (before the AP changed) and in winning in 1965 with a loss and a tie when fourth ranked Bama defeated third ranked Nebraska in the Orange Bowl after number one Michigan State and number two Arkansas lost earlier in the day. The AP switched back to regular season only for Notre Dame's benefit in 1966. Despite losing to Notre Dame in the Sugar Bowl, Bama also won a 1973 national championship from United Press International (the Coaches Poll), which was awarded on the basis of regular season play only.

Alabama won national championships with Sugar Bowl wins over Penn State (1978 season), Arkansas (1979) and Miami (1992).

The Southeastern Conference has tie-ins with nine bowls, and can have a 10th berth if its champion is in the BCS Championship Game. The SEC champion is in the Sugar Bowl if not in the BCS Championship Game and the SEC runner-up, if BCS eligible, will be the Sugar Bowl representative if the champion is in the championship game. That was the case last season with Florida going to the BCS national championship game and Alabama going to the Sugar Bowl.

Other tie-ins are with the Capital One in Orlando, the Outback in Tampa, the Cotton in Dallas (actually Arlington as the bowl game moves to the new Dallas Cowboys Stadium this season), the Chick-fil-A in Atlanta, the Liberty in Memphis, the Music City in Nashville, the Independence in Shreveport, and the Papajohns.com in Birmingham.

The Independence has announced a new partnership that does not include the SEC beginning next year, but published reports say the league will align with the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida, beginning with the 2010 season.

Playing in a bowl game provides advantages beyond extra practice time. A bowl team remains in the public eye for an extra month. Among those in the public are future football prospects, who read newspapers and the internet and watch television. While the players in a bowl may or may not consider the game a reward, it's an experience that will be meaningful to them in future years. From a tangible standpoint, bowls are permitted to give a sackful of nice gifts to the participating players.

The school also benefits monetarily. Although the SEC has a split of bowl revenue, participating teams get a hefty share, and the bigger the bowl the bigger the payoff.

It's also a bonding opportunity for the team and its fans, the ones who cough up money for donations and season tickets. Alabama fans love a bowl trip; and the hotels, restaurants and other businesses in places like New Orleans love to see the Tide roll in.

Alabama has been somewhat quiet in national bowl conversation in recent years (unless you count the Tide's meltdown against Utah in last year's Sugar Bowl, which had the tongues of national commentators wagging). Nick Saban has put Bama back among the nation's elite, which offers the expectation that the Alabama Crimson Tide will also be a prominent part of the bowl picture for many years.

What It Means To Be Crimson Tide

Gene Stallings and Alabama's Greatest Players

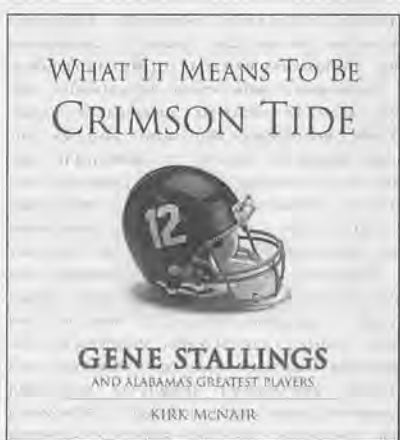
Alabama football means championships and All-America players and, for many, a man in a houndstooth hat. Some 60 Alabama players who performed over a 75-year period tell us "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide."

Former Alabama Coach Gene Stallings and BAMA Editor Kirk McNair selected players who tell the stories of games and practices, coaches and teammates. The story of "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide."

Among those featured are Harry Gilmer, Bart Starr, Lee Roy Jordan, Joe Namath, Ken Stabler, Johnny Musso, John Hannah, Ozzie Newsome, and Jay Barker.

Gene Stallings reveals much of his philosophy and reveals why he did NOT follow Paul Bryant as Alabama head football coach in 1983. Kirk McNair introduces the players.

"What It Means To Be Crimson Tide—Gene Stallings and Alabama's Greatest Players" is a hardcover book of over 300 pages in an oversized format with archival photographs throughout. To order (\$27.95 plus tax, shipping and handling) call 1-205-345-5074. You may request a personalized autograph from Kirk McNair.



2009-10 College Football Bowl Schedule

(Dates and times are tentative and subject to change)

BOWL	DATE/TIME (CT)	SITE	MATCHUP	TV
New Mexico	Dec. 19/1:30	Albuquerque	Mountain West vs. WAC	ESPN
St. Petersburg	Dec. 19/7:00	St. Petersburg	Big East vs. C-USA	ESPN
New Orleans	Dec. 20/7:00	New Orleans	Sun Belt vs. C-USA	ESPN
Las Vegas	Dec. 22/7:00	Las Vegas	Mountain West vs. Pac-10	ESPN
Poinsettia	Dec. 23/7:00	San Diego	Mountain West vs. Pac-10	ESPN
Hawaii	Dec. 24/7:00	Honolulu	WAC vs. C-USA	ESPN
Motor City	Dec. 26/Noon	Detroit	Big 10 vs. MAC	ESPN
Meineke Car Care	Dec. 26/3:30	Charlotte, N.C.	ACC vs. Big East	ESPN
Emerald	Dec. 26/7:00	San Francisco	ACC vs. Pac-10	ESPN
*Music City	Dec. 27/7:15	Nashville	SEC vs. ACC	ESPN
*Independence	Dec. 28/4:00	Shreveport	SEC vs. Big 12	ESPN
EagleBank	Dec. 29/3:30	Washington, D.C.	ACC vs. Military Academy	ESPN
Champs Sports	Dec. 29/7:00	Orlando	ACC vs. Big Ten	ESPN
Humanitarian	Dec. 30/3:30	Boise	Mountain West vs. WAC	ESPN
Holiday	Dec. 30/7:00	San Diego	Big 12 vs. Pac-10	ESPN
Texas	Dec. 30/7:00	Houston	Big 12 vs. Navy	NFL
Armed Forces	Dec. 31/TBA	Fort Worth	Mountain West vs. C-USA	ESPN
Sun	Dec. 31/11:00	El Paso	Pac-10 vs. Big East/Big 12/Notre Dame	CBS
Insight	Dec. 31/4:30	Tempe	Big Ten vs. Big 12	NFL
*Chick-fil-A	Dec. 31/6:30	Atlanta	SEC vs. ACC	ESPN
*Outback	Jan. 1/10 a.m.	Tampa	SEC vs. Big Ten	ESPN
*Capital One	Jan. 1/Noon	Orlando	SEC vs. Big Ten	ABC
Gator	Jan. 1/Noon	Jacksonville	ACC vs. Big East/Big 12/Notre Dame	CBS
Rose	Jan. 1/4:00	Pasadena	BCS vs. BCS	ABC
*Sugar	Jan. 1/7:30	New Orleans	SEC vs. BCS	Fox
International	Jan. 2/11 a.m.	Toronto	Big East vs. MAC	ESPN2
*Cotton	Jan. 2/1:00	Dallas	SEC vs. Big 12	Fox
*Papajohns.com	Jan. 2/1:00	Birmingham	SEC vs. Big East	ESPN
*Liberty	Jan. 2/4:30	Memphis	SEC vs. C-USA	ESPN
Alamo	Jan. 2/8:00	San Antonio	Big Ten vs. Big 12	ESPN
Fiesta	Jan. 4/7:00	Phoenix	BCS vs. BCS	Fox
Orange	Jan. 5/7:00	Miami	BCS vs. BCS	Fox
GMAC	Jan. 6/6:00	Mobile	ACC vs. MAC	ESPN
BCS Championship	Jan. 7/7:00	Pasadena	BCS 1 vs. BCS 2	ABC

*SEC affiliated bowl game

(When not having a conference champion participating in the BCS National Championship Game, the BCS will have the following conference champions as host teams: Sugar-SEC; Rose-Pac-10 and Big Ten; Fiesta-Big 12; Orange-ACC.)

ALABAMA ALL-TIME BOWL RECORDS



Paul Bryant

VICTORIES

1. ALABAMA	31
Southern Cal	31
3. Penn State	26
4. Georgia	25
Tennessee	25
Texas	25
7. Oklahoma	24
8. Nebraska	23
9. Georgia Tech	22
10. LSU	21
11. Florida State	20
Mississippi	20
13. Michigan	19
Auburn	19
15. Ohio State	18
Miami	18

APPEARANCES

1. ALABAMA	56
2. Texas	48
3. Tennessee	47
Southern Cal	47
5. Nebraska	45
6. Georgia	44
7. Oklahoma	42
8. Penn State	41
9. LSU	40
Ohio State	40
11. Michigan	39
12. Georgia Tech	37
Florida State	37
14. Arkansas	36
Florida	36

ALABAMA BOWL HISTORY

APPEARANCES: 56 RECORD: 31-22-3

SEASON	BOWL	RESULT	FINAL RECORD	AP RANK	SEASON	BOWL	RESULT	FINAL RECORD	AP RANK
1925	1926 ROSE	UA 20, WASHINGTON 19	10-0-0	N/A	1975	1975 Sugar	UA 13, Penn State 6	11-1-0	3
1926	1927 Rose	UA 7, Stanford 7	9-0-1	N/A	1976	1976 Liberty	UA 36, UCLA 6	9-3-0	11
1930	1931 ROSE	UA 24, WASHINGTON STATE 0	10-0-0	N/A	1977	1978 Sugar	UA 35, Ohio State 6	11-1-0	2
1934	1935 ROSE	UA 29, STANFORD 13	10-0-0	N/A	1978	1979 SUGAR	UA 14, PENN STATE 7	11-1-0	1
1937	1938 Rose	California 13, UA 0	9-1-0	4	1979	1980 SUGAR	UA 24, ARKANSAS 9	12-0-0	1
1941	1942 Cotton	UA 29, Texas A&M 21	9-2-0	20	1980	1981 Cotton	UA 30, Baylor 2	10-2-0	6
1942	1943 Orange	UA 37, Boston College 21	8-3	10	1981	1982 Cotton	Texas 14, UA 12	9-2-1	7
1944	1945 Sugar	Duke 29, UA 26	5-2-2	NR	1982	1982 Liberty	UA 21, Illinois 15	8-4-0	NR
1945	1946 ROSE	UA 34, SOUTHERN CAL 14	10-0-0	2	1983	1983 Sun	UA 28, SMU 7	8-4-0	15
1947	1948 Sugar	Texas 27, UA 7	8-3	6	1985	1985 Aloha	UA 24, Southern Cal 3	9-2-1	13
1952	1953 Orange	UA 61, Syracuse 6	10-2	9	1986	1986 Sun	UA 28, Washington 6	10-3-0	9
1953	1954 Cotton	Rice 28, UA 6	6-3-3	13	1987	1988 Hall Of Fame	Michigan 28, UA 24	7-5-0	NR
1959	1959 Liberty	Penn State 7, UA 0	7-2-2	10	1988	1988 Sun	UA 29, Army 28	9-3-0	17
1960	1960 Bluebonnet	UA 3, Texas 3	8-1-2	9	1989	1990 Sugar	Miami 33, UA 25	10-2-0	9
1961	1962 SUGAR	UA 10, ARKANSAS 3	11-0-0	1	1990	1991 Fiesta	Louisville 34, UA 7	7-5-0	NR
1962	1963 Orange	UA 17, Oklahoma 0	10-1-0	6	1991	1991 Blockbuster	UA 30, Colorado 25	11-1-0	5
1963	1964 Sugar	UA 12, Mississippi 7	9-2-0	8	1992	1993 SUGAR	UA 34, MIAMI 13	13-0-0	1
1964	1965 ORANGE	TEXAS 21, UA 17	10-1-0	1	1993	1993 Gator	UA 24, North Carolina 10	9-3-1	14
1965	1966 ORANGE	UA 39, NEBRASKA 28	9-1-1	1	1994	1995 Citrus	UA 24, Ohio State 17	12-1	5
1966	1967 Sugar	UA 34, Nebraska 7	11-0-0	3	1996	1997 Outback	UA 17, Michigan 14	10-3	11
1967	1968 Cotton	Texas A&M 20, UA 16	8-2-1	8	1998	1998 Music City	Virginia Tech 38, UA 7	7-5	NR
1968	1968 Gator	Missouri 35, UA 10	8-3-0	17	1999	2000 Orange	Michigan 35, UA 34 (OT)	10-3	8
1969	1969 Liberty	Colorado 47, UA 33	6-5-0	NR	2001	2001 Independence	UA 14, Iowa State 13	7-5	NR
1970	1970 Bluebonnet	UA 24, Oklahoma 24	6-5-1	NR	2004	2004 Music City	Minnesota 20, UA 16	6-6	NR
1971	1972 Orange	Nebraska 38, UA 6	11-1-0	4	2005	2006 Cotton	UA 13, Texas Tech 10	10-2	8
1972	1973 Cotton	Texas 17, UA 13	10-2-0	7	2006	2006 Independence	Oklahoma State 34, UA 31	6-7	NR
1973	1973 SUGAR	NOTRE DAME 24, UA 23	11-1-0	4	2007	2007 Independence	UA 30, Colorado 24	7-6	NR
1974	1975 Orange	Notre Dame 13, UA 11	11-1-0	5	2008	2009 Sugar	Utah 31, UA 17	12-2	6

Undefeated, untied Bama teams winning major bowl games and some form of National Championship

ALABAMA BOWL BY BOWL

Rose Bowl

Pasadena, California

Record: Won 4, Lost 1, Tied 1

- 1926 Alabama 20, Washington 19
- 1927 Alabama 7, Stanford 7
- 1931 Alabama 24, Washington State 0
- 1935 Alabama 29, Stanford 13
- 1938 California 13, Alabama 0
- 1946 Alabama 34, Southern Cal 14

Outstanding Player Awards

- 1926 Back Johnny Mack Brown
- 1927 Tackle Fred Pickhard
- 1931 Back John "Monk" Campbell
- 1935 Back Millard "Dixie" Howell
- 1946 Back Harry Gilmer

Sugar Bowl

New Orleans, Louisiana

Record: Won 8, Lost 5

- 1945 Duke 29, Alabama 26
- 1947 Texas 27, Alabama 7
- 1962 Alabama 10, Arkansas 3
- 1963 Alabama 12, Ole Miss 7
- 1967 Alabama 34, Nebraska 7
- 1973 Notre Dame 24, Alabama 23
- 1974 Alabama 13, Penn State 6
- 1978 Alabama 35, Ohio State 6
- 1979 Alabama 14, Penn State 7
- 1980 Alabama 24, Arkansas 9
- 1990 Miami 33, Alabama 25
- 1993 Alabama 34, Miami 13
- 2009 Utah 31, Alabama 17

Outstanding Player Awards

- 1962 Fullback Mike Fracchia
- 1963 Placekicker Tim Davis
- 1967 Quarterback Ken Stabler
- 1975 Quarterback Richard Todd
- 1978 Quarterback Jeff Rutledge
- 1979 Linebacker Barry Krauss
- 1980 Halfback Major Ogilvie
- 1993 Tailback Derrick Lassic

Orange Bowl

Miami, Florida

Record: Won 4, Lost 4

- 1943 Alabama 37, Boston College 21
- 1953 Alabama 61, Syracuse 6
- 1964 Alabama 17, Oklahoma 0
- 1965 Texas 21, Alabama 17
- 1966 Alabama 39, Nebraska 28
- 1972 Nebraska 38, Alabama 6
- 1976 Notre Dame 13, Alabama 11
- 2000 Michigan 35, Alabama 34 (OT)

Outstanding Player Awards

- 1964 Linebacker Lee Roy Jordan
- 1965 Quarterback Joe Namath
- 1966 Quarterback Steve Sloan
- 1975 End Leroy Cook

Fiesta Bowl

Tempe, Arizona

Record: Won 0, Lost 1

- 1991 Louisville 34, Alabama 7

Cotton Bowl

Dallas, Texas

Record: Won 3, Lost 4

- 1942 Alabama 29, Texas A&M 21
- 1954 Rice 28, Alabama 6
- 1967 Texas A&M 20, Alabama 16
- 1973 Texas 17, Alabama 13
- 1981 Alabama 30, Baylor 2
- 1982 Texas 14, Alabama 12
- 2005 Alabama 13, Texas Tech 10

Outstanding Player Awards

- 1942 End Holt Rast, Tackle Don Whitmire, Halfback Jimmy Nelson
- 1981 Halfback Major Ogilvie, Noseguard Warren Lyles
- 1982 Linebacker Robbie Jones
- 2005 Quarterback Brodie Croyle, Linebacker DeMeco Ryans

Gator Bowl

Jacksonville, Florida

Record: Won 1, Lost 1

- 1968 Missouri 35, Alabama 10
- 1993 Alabama 24, North Carolina 10

Outstanding Player Awards

- 1993 Quarterback Brian Burgdorf

Blockbuster Bowl

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Record: Won 1, Lost 0

- 1991 Alabama 30, Colorado 25
- Outstanding Player Award
- 1992 Receiver David Palmer

Liberty Bowl

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1959)

Memphis, Tennessee

Record: Won 2, Lost 2

- 1959 Penn State 7, Alabama 0
- 1969 Colorado 47, Alabama 33
- 1976 Alabama 36, UCLA 6
- 1983 Alabama 21, Illinois 15
- Outstanding Player Award
- 1977 Linebacker Barry Krauss
- 1983 Cornerback Jeremiah Castille

Bluebonnet Bowl

Houston, Texas

Record: Won 0, Lost 0, Tied 2

- 1960 Alabama 3, Texas 3
- 1970 Alabama 24, Oklahoma 24
- Outstanding Player Award
- 1960 Linebacker Lee Roy Jordan
- 1971 Linebacker Jeff Rouzie

Sun Bowl

El Paso, Texas

Record: Won 3, Lost 0

- 1984 Alabama 28, SMU 7
- 1985 Alabama 28, Washington 6
- 1988 Alabama 29, Army 28

Outstanding Player Award

- 1984 Quarterback Walter Lewis, Center Wes Neighbors
- 1985 Linebacker Cornelius Bennett
- 1988 Quarterback David Smith, Linebacker Derrick Thomas

Aloha Bowl

Honolulu, Hawaii

Record: Won 1, Lost 0

- 1986 Alabama 24, Southern Cal 3

Outstanding Player Award

- 1986 Linebacker Cornelius Bennett, Tailback Gene Jelks

Citrus Bowl

Orlando, Florida

Record: Won 1, Lost 0

- 1995 Alabama 24, Ohio State 17

Outstanding Player Award

- 1994 Tailback Sherman Williams

Hall Of Fame Bowl

Tampa, Florida

Record: Won 0, Lost 1

- 1987 Michigan 28, Alabama 24

Music City Bowl

Nashville, Tennessee

Record: Won 0, Lost 2

- 1998 Virginia Tech 38, Alabama 7
- 2004 Minnesota 20, Alabama 16

Outback Bowl

Tampa, Florida

Record: Won 1, Lost 0

- 1997 Alabama 17, Michigan 14
- Outstanding Player Award
- 1997 Linebacker Dwayne Rudd

Independence Bowl

Shreveport, Louisiana

Record: Won 2, Lost 1

- 2001 Alabama 14, Iowa State 13
- 2006 Oklahoma State 34, Alabama 31
- 2007 Alabama 30, Colorado 24
- Outstanding Player Award
- 2001 Safety Waine Bacon
- 2007 Quarterback John Parker Wilson
- 2007 Defensive End Wallace Gilberry



FOOTBALL

By Tim Gayle

Leadership

Crimson Tide fills the roles impressively

Leadership. It's an invaluable asset that's impossible to measure. Rarely does a player offer a negative comment when asked about his team's leaders. And after a few months of reflection, the new season almost always offers a better group of leaders, at least to those who have to size up the people they're following into competitive battle each Saturday.

Alabama Coach Nick Saban knew his football team faced a sizable challenge entering the 2009 season. He had to replace three offensive linemen and four starters on defense. More importantly, he had to find a new group of leaders to step forward.

"We had some guys that were as good a leader as you're ever going to find," Saban said in August. "Rashad Johnson, Antoine Caldwell, John Parker (Wilson) did a good job, Travis McCall set a great example every day he went out there, Bobby Greenwood was a guy who set a good example and affected other people with his personality and his example, so we had fantastic leadership last year.

"I don't think leadership comes from just seniors. You have players who are very good players that can be of any age that can affect other people. I think it's important that players don't think they have to be seniors to affect other people."

The third-year Crimson Tide coach went on to describe how he likes leaders to control each of the groups on the team (i.e., kickers, receivers, defensive backs). "Then, you have to have guys that affect units on both sides and then you have guys who get the whole team to respond to the things you want to do."

Those leaders generally derive from players who have the experience and the success to lead by example, such as offensive guard Mike Johnson and cornerback Javier Arenas. Some can be leaders because of their talent, such as receiver Julio Jones or tailback Mark Ingram (both sophomores), while others are natural leaders because of the responsibility imposed on them at their position, such as quarterback Greg McElroy and middle linebacker Rolando McClain, who makes the defensive calls for that unit before each play.

Rashad Johnson
was outstanding
Tide leader



Pat Trammell was considered a great leader by his coach

Bryant Museum

"We have different people step up at different times," observed senior tackle Drew Davis. "On offense, we like to consider ourselves as all being a leader and all being responsible for what we have to do. A lot of people think Julio is a leader – and he is – but I've seen (senior) Mike McCoy and others step up and talk. And Greg does a good job of leading the whole offense."

The success of an offense often depends on the charisma of the person who fills that leadership void at the beginning of the season. While tailback Shaun Alexander was a leader on the 1999 SEC championship team, it was left tackle Chris Samuels—the outstanding senior who spoke little but was emphatic when he made a point—who made the biggest impression in crucial moments.

Legendary Alabama Coach Paul Bryant always considered Pat Trammell one of his best leaders. Trammell would go on to be a doctor, then tragically die of cancer seven years after leading Bama to the 1961 national championship.

Tight end and placekicker Tommy Brooker, a teammate of Trammell, gave a perfect example of how the quarterback maintained total control of the Tide offense in the early 1960s.

"He was like the Mafia," Brooker said. "The boss. He was totally in charge of the huddle, and if you didn't behave he sent you to the bench. And that's something you didn't want, because once you got to the sidelines 'Big Poppa' (Bryant) got you."

"Trammell didn't want to send anyone off the field, so we called most of our plays from the line of scrimmage; he had used all the time in the huddle to cuss people out and didn't have time to call the play. I'm sure people thought he was calling an audible, but he

was really calling the play."

Saban saw some of the same signs of leadership when the Tide was struggling through games with South Carolina and Tennessee this season before getting a much-needed open date.

"I think when the leadership is most critical," he said, "is when things get thick. We have some guys who have emerged as leaders on this team but we certainly needed to see that in a critical time in the game."

He said he saw the same qualities emerge from Caldwell, Wilson, Johnson and others last season when the Tide rose up to grab a number one national ranking and the Southeastern Conference Western Division championship by winning road games at Georgia, Tennessee and LSU.

"I feel like people are stepping up more with their play on the field, their actions," said senior defensive end Lorenzo Washington. "I think people use Mark (Ingram) as a leader on the offense. They feed off his energy. You see the passion that Ro (McClain) plays with. His buddy goes down, Dont'a (Hightower), and then the whole defense comes together. We've lost a great player but we're not going to let this mess up our defense or mess up our season."

Leadership is impossible to measure or predict, but it will be crucial to Alabama's success as the players continue their quest to bring another national championship to Tuscaloosa.



Rolando McClain is leader of the Bama defense

Stuart McNair

Editor's Note: Tim Gayle is the Alabama beat writer for the *Montgomery Advertiser*.

total gym®

AS SEEN ON
TV

Endorsed by
*Chuck Norris &
Christie Brinkley*

Only have 20 minutes a day to get into shape? Try Total Gym!

The Total Gym XLS is the simple, safe and effective way to tone your body and boost overall fitness in as little as 20 minutes a day.

The unique design of the Total Gym XLS works your major muscle groups at the same time, so you enjoy the results of a full workout in less time. It's the perfect way for busy people to stay fit and feel great!

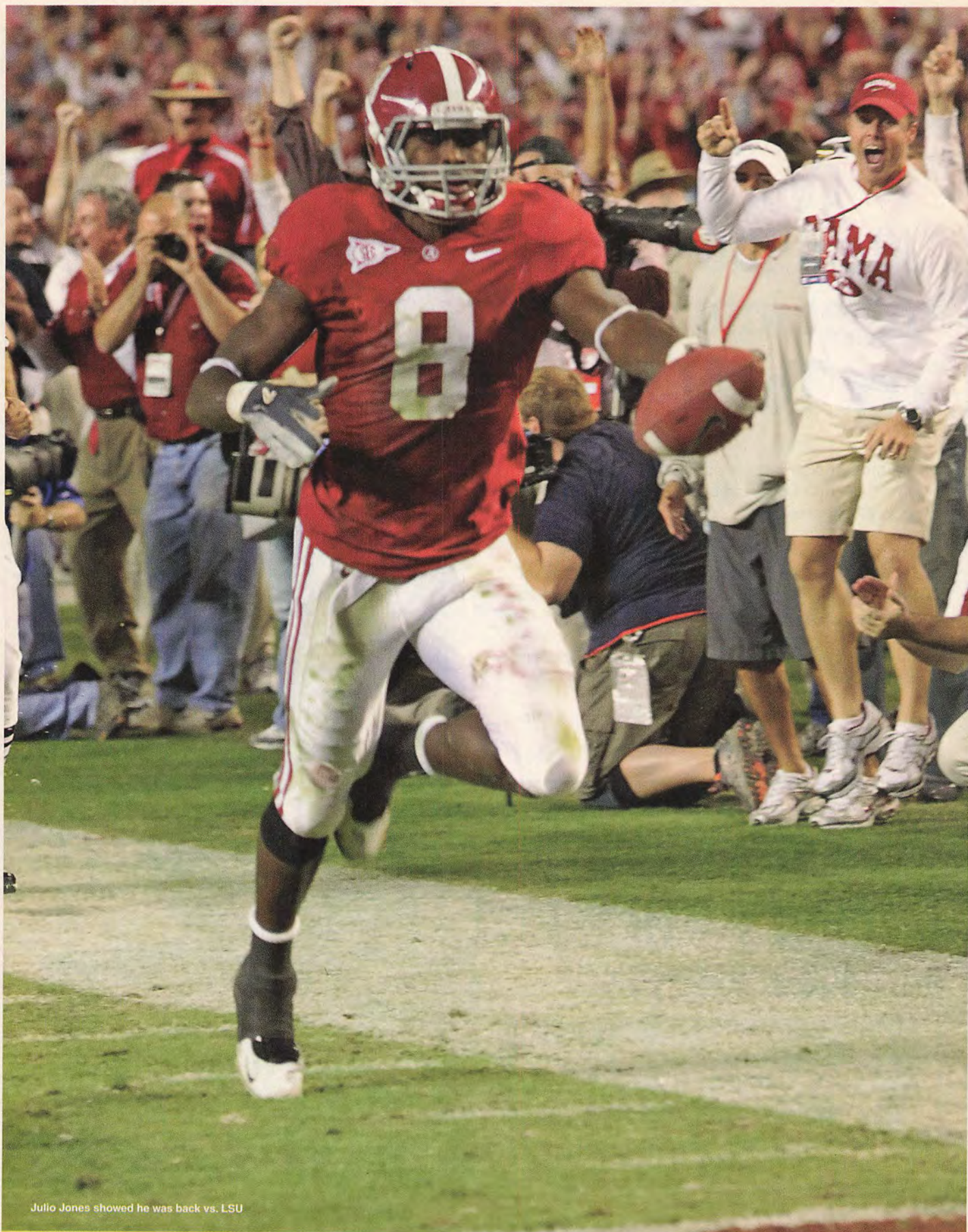
- The Total Gym XLS is versatile, too – over 80 exercises to build, strengthen and tone your muscles
- No assembly required – sets up in minutes and folds for easy storage

Try the Total Gym®
for 30 days!
ONLY \$49.95
FREE SHIPPING!

Call now for this special offer:
1.866.291.7465



"I am in the best shape I have ever
been in, thanks to Total Gym!"
- Joy Criss, Kentucky



Julio Jones showed he was back vs. LSU

Stuart McNeil

Julio Is Back

Star receiver draws attention from opponents

In 13 seconds against LSU, Julio Jones added another clip to his highlight reel. In a single play, Alabama's sophomore receiver lifted the Crimson Tide from a 15-13 fourth-quarter deficit into a lead it would not give up.

Jones did more than spark the 24-15 victory over the Tigers. His 73-yard catch-and-run for a touchdown didn't just help Coach Nick Saban's team clinch its second straight SEC Western Division championship.

That play served notice to Alabama fans—and opponents—that Jones' playmaking, game-breaking, jaw-dropping athleticism has returned after a series of ailments slowed his sophomore season.

"The whole sideline was going crazy," Alabama linebacker Cory Reamer said about Jones' touchdown. "That was an unbelievable play. It just showed what kind of athletic ability he has. They had great guys locking him down all night. Then for him to break loose and really show off his speed, that's just unbelievable."

With 102 yards on four catches from quarterback Greg McElroy, Jones recorded his first 100-yard receiving game since the Florida game last December.

Juuuulio is back. For much of the season, he had been Whoooooio. As in, who's that guy wearing number 8?

Last year, the 6-foot-4, 210-pound wide receiver from Foley was a freshman All-America. He caught 58 passes for 924 yards. In other words, he caught 30 percent of the Crimson Tide's completions and accounted for 39 percent of Bama's passing yards.



Julio Jones is tough to bring down

Stuart McNair

This season, with defenses scheming to contain him, through the LSU game he had grabbed 24 passes for 331 yards. That's 17 percent of the completions and 18 percent of the passing yards.

Part of the statistical slide has been attributed to double-teams and defenses aligning against Jones.

"We've just been taking what the defense gave us," Jones said.

Few defenses want to give Alabama an open Julio Jones.

Part of the problem has been physical.

He bruised his kneecap in the first quarter against Florida International and missed the North Texas game entirely. He tweaked his left ankle in a preseason scrimmage.

Those nagging aches came after offseason surgery to repair a sports hernia, as well as cleanup procedures on wrist and shoulder ailments after his freshman year.

The week leading into the LSU game, Jones admitted Alabama's bye week helped "a whole lot."

"Physically, I got my legs back up under me," Jones said, adding he finally feels 100 per cent healthy.

Crimson Tide Coach Nick Saban has noticed the improvement. "I think the Tennessee game (Bama's eighth of the year) is probably the first time he looked like his old self in terms of having the juice and the burst," Saban said after the LSU game, Bama's ninth contest. "He played a good game tonight and he played a good game then. And we want to continue to feature him, but I'm really pleased with the way the rest of our receivers played in the game."

"He's just that type of guy that's going to do whatever he can to help us win and help us out of a situation like that. You can't ask any more of him as a teammate. He's been great."

They all made some big plays. ... We need that kind of balance, we need the ball distributed where it's supposed to go and I think Greg (quarterback Greg McElroy) did a great job of that tonight."

In those two key games, against LSU and Tennessee, Jones caught 11 passes for 156 yards.

"I've just been patient all year and I knew I was going to get the ball sooner or later," Jones said.

Jones entered 2009 as a Pre-Season *Playboy* All-America and on the watch list for the Maxwell Award, given to the nation's best player, and the Biletnikoff Award, presented to the nation's best receiver.

Jones' touchdown was far from his only contribution against LSU. Facing third-and-8 while driving to a game-clinching field goal later in the fourth quarter, McElroy threw a short crossing route to Jones, who broke a tackle and earned the first down.

That's one of Jones' least appreciated assets. He is one of the few receivers who accumulates yards after contact. Against Tennessee, second- and third-efforts by Jones produced first downs on passes thrown short of the sticks. Against Arkansas, Jones' 50-yard touchdown reception from McElroy on a gadget play out of the wildcat formation was underthrown, but he shook off a tackler around the 10-yard line and scored.

"He definitely plays as physical as anybody I've ever seen at that position," Reamer said.

In fact, while fans appreciate Jones' big-play highlights, his teammates talk more about his greatest hits. He is a devastating downfield blocker.

"Blocking is fun to me," Jones said, insisting it's just as much fun as catching a pass.

Mark Ingram never fails to credit Jones and his other wide receivers for their work downfield.

Reamer said Jones' impact on the ground game is evident.

"You see it on the film when we come back Mondays," the senior linebacker said. "He's making pancake blocks on safeties or linebackers that are breaking Mark and Trent (Richardson) and those guys free. I mean, what else can you ask out of a guy than just take a guy completely out of a play? He's driving people off the field into the sidelines. He's a physical guy."

LSU linebacker Kelvin Sheppard could only tip his cap after Jones' lightning bolt to the end zone.

"That was definitely the turning point in the game," Sheppard said. "It was tough. The whole game we were bending a little bit, but we never broke until that play. Julio did a tremendous job when he hit the sideline. You're just not going to catch him."

Of course, Jones did get a little extra incentive to make a play.

He dropped a pass from McElroy with Alabama pinned near its goal line midway through the third quarter. On the next play, McElroy was flagged for intentional grounding in the end zone. The safety cut the Tide's lead to 10-9 and LSU scored on its next possession to go up 15-10.

Early in the fourth quarter, Jones was the 12th man in the huddle as Alabama brought in its short-yardage team, including Terrence Cody, on a third-and-goal situation on the LSU 2-yard line. After the 5-yard penalty, Alabama settled for a field goal. The flag caused Saban to fling his headset and set the stage for a quick, pointed exchange with his sophomore wide receiver.

But Jones didn't hang his head.

"Games have their ups and downs. It depends how you deal with it," he said. "I just forgot that fast and came back and got ready for the next play."

In fact, Alabama's next offensive play covered 73 yards and 13 seconds. It ended with Jones igniting his teammates and celebrating in the end zone. But he kept it cool.

"We practiced that all week," he said of the quick-screen pass to the left flat. "I scored on it at practice so it wasn't anything different in the game. ... In a situation like that, I feel I should step up and make the play."

There didn't seem to be any personal satisfaction in his voice. He stayed on an even keel. Reamer said he's done that all season. Asked if he's seen Jones drop his head in frustration, the linebacker said, "Never."

"With as much attention as he had last year during his freshman year, the whole season's been the same for him," Reamer said after the LSU game. "(Defenses) are really going to look out for him when you've got an awesome threat like that. He's done nothing but continue to work hard during practice.

"(We knew) his time would come—and it came tonight. He made a big play for us and he stepped up when we needed him to."

Javier Arenas said he saw this coming.

"He's been positive the whole time. He's always smiling, always working hard," Arenas said. "You knew it was there — and there it went. Now he's in the sky. He took off. I think he's been playing good all season. When you're that good of a receiver, teams are going to make it very, very hard for you to be exceptional."

Senior left guard Mike Johnson said Jones' smaller statistics do not mean his impact on the offense has been reduced.

"We've won all the games we've played this year and a lot of it is because of him—whether he's got the ball in his hands or not," said Johnson, noting Jones filled in for Arenas when the return specialist missed a game with bruised ribs.

"He's just that type of guy that's going to do whatever he can to help us win and help us out of a situation like that. You can't ask any more of him as a teammate. He's been great."

For his part, Jones stays low-key, trying to keep things as simple as possible.

"You just do what you need to do," he said. "Go out there and you play as hard you can play. Don't worry about what everybody else thinks." ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ken Rogers is the Alabama beat writer for the *Dothan Eagle*.

PLAY LIVE EVERY SUNDAY



Powered by
OPEN SPORTS

20-Minute Games
Unlimited In-Game Substitutions
Play for Cash or for Free

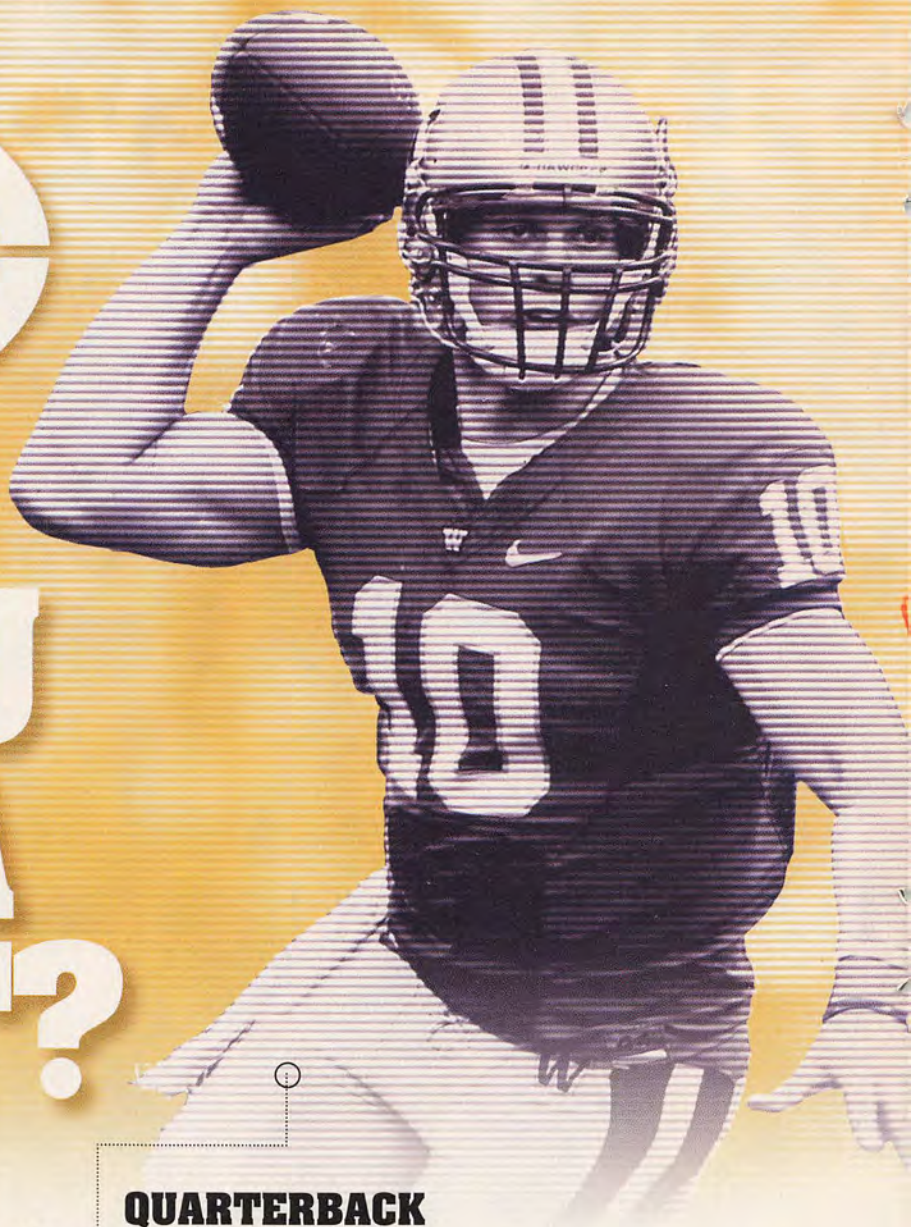
foxsports.com/fantasyfootball

msn



by Peter Schrager, FoxSports.com

DO YOU FEEL A DRAFT?



April showers may bring May flowers, but April's draft brings the next generation of NFL stars. And there's not a weed among them.

We've scoured the nation to bring you the top players, position-by-position, likely to be available in the 2010 NFL Draft. Things can change between now and the end of the scouting combines, but here's where they stand right now.

QUARTERBACK

01 Jimmy Clausen, junior, Notre Dame The Golden Domer's shown a knack for the clutch in 2009, winning four straight games in the final minutes early in the season. He's also shown a gifted arm and an unquestioned ability to lead. Clausen came into college facing lofty expectations and a ton of hype. He'll face the same in the pros, and he'll be up to it.

02 Colt McCoy, senior, Texas McCoy's put on 15-20 pounds of muscle and improved his arm strength over the past two years. In the process, he's proven he can play at the next level.

03 Jake Locker, junior, Washington An amazing talent, Locker is pretty much single-handedly responsible for keeping Washington competitive in '09.

04 Sam Bradford, junior, Oklahoma The shoulder injury will likely cost him top-five money, but Bradford shouldn't slip out of the first round.

05 Tim Tebow, senior, Florida Whether he plays quarterback, tailback or fullback at the next level, Tebow's a proven winner who should give opposing defenses fits in the pros.

Small-School Sleeper: John Skelton, senior, Fordham

Go to FoxSports.com for mock drafts, rankings and expert analysis for the upcoming 2010 NFL Draft

Otto Greule Jr/Getty



RUNNING BACKS

01 C.J. Spiller, senior, Clemson With sub-4.4 speed in the 40, Spiller reminds a lot of scouts of fellow lightning-fast running backs Felix Jones and Darren Sproles. He could end up being a better pro. Spiller had at least one 60-plus-yard play from scrimmage in each of Clemson's first seven games in 2009, and racked up 310 all-purpose yards versus a tough Miami defense in October. With solid hands, he's a receiving threat out of the backfield, as well.

02 Jahvid Best, junior, Cal Best was silenced by the USC and Oregon defenses, slowing his Heisman bid and NFL draft buzz quite a bit.

03 Joe McKnight, junior, USC McKnight proved he could be the go-to guy in the Trojan offense after Stafon Johnson's unfortunate accident. He could end up being a better professional running back than another USC star, Reggie Bush.

04 Noel Devine, junior, West Virginia With Pat White and Steve Slaton off to the NFL, the 5-8 Devine has thrown the Mountaineers' offense on his back and delivered on a weekly basis.

05 Ryan Matthews, junior, Fresno State The nation's leading rusher for a large portion of the season, Matthews has put up big numbers against three of the nation's stingiest defenses in Cincinnati, Boise State and Wisconsin.

Small-School Sleeper: Joique Bell, senior, Wayne State (Mich.)

Kevin C. Cox/Getty

WIDE RECEIVERS

01 Brandon LaFell, senior, LSU Although it sometimes feels as if LaFell's been playing college football for 35 years, he's still only 23 years old. At 6-3, 210 pounds, LaFell's an imposing red-zone presence who can also stretch the field with blazing speed. Reliable and consistent, he could be an NFL quarterback's safety net for years to come.

02 Dez Bryant, junior, Oklahoma State Suspended midway through the season for lying about dealings with Deion Sanders, Bryant's stock took a minor hit. The guy's still a game-breaker, capable of changing the outcome as a receiver or returning kicks.

03 Damian Williams, junior, USC Williams put it all together and developed into a true No. 1 in '09. Like Bryant, he's dangerous in the return game as well.

04 Eric Decker, senior, Minnesota A midseason foot injury may scare some scouts, but the guy can play. Gifted with golden hands and an ability to grab anything in sight, Decker could make an immediate impact at the next level.

05 Jeremy Williams, senior, Tulane A big target who runs crisp routes and has great hands, Williams could be the ideal possession receiver in the NFL.

Small-School Sleeper: Andre Roberts, senior, The Citadel

Kevork Djansezian/Getty



TIGHT ENDS

01 Jermaine Gresham, senior, Oklahoma Though he missed the entire '09 season with a knee injury, Gresham should be fully rehabilitated and ready to go by the February NFL Draft Combine. When healthy, he's a scary tight end prospect, blessed with the size of an NBA power forward and the hands of a receiver. Too bold to compare him to Antonio Gates and Tony Gonzalez? Not at all.

02 Anthony McCoy, senior, USC A tremendous blocking tight end, McCoy has spent '09 proving to scouts that he's got decent hands, too.

03 Colin Peek, senior, Alabama The Georgia Tech transfer emerged as one of the Tide's most reliable receiving options in '09. Solid blocker, too.

04 Ed Dickson, senior, Oregon A former defensive end, Dickson made the transition to the other side of the ball and has flourished.

05 Dennis Pitta, senior, BYU A better receiver than blocker, Pitta emerged as brother-in-law Max Hall's top target in '09.

Small-School Sleeper: Mike Caussin, senior, James Madison

OFFENSIVE TACKLE

01 Russell Okung, senior, Oklahoma State An absolute beast at left tackle, Okung is the rare physical specimen blessed with superior size and foot speed. He's played especially well in big games, including 2008's nationally televised win over Missouri and '08 and '09 battles versus Texas. Oklahoma State led the Big 12 in rushing during Okung's first three seasons.

02 Trent Williams, senior, Oklahoma Williams made the move from right tackle to left tackle in '09, and has proven he can play both spots in the pros.

03 Bryan Bulaga, junior, Iowa Missed three games in September, but returned better than ever.

04 Anthony Davis, junior, Rutgers Highly sought-after recruit has been one of the rare bright spots for Rutgers in '09.

05 Charles Brown, senior, USC Brown's stepped it up in his senior season, showing superior run-blocking skills.

Small-School Sleeper: Casey Knips, senior, South Dakota State



GUARD / CENTER

01 Mike Iupati, senior, Idaho At 6-6, 300 pounds, Iupati is a lean, mean, blocking machine. The Vandals enjoyed an unlikely revival in '09, and Iupati was front and center. NFL scouts love his foot speed; opposing defensive linemen hate his strength. Having just played football since the age of 14, there's a ton of upside, too.

02 Matt Tennant, senior, Boston College Matt Ryan's center in '07, Tennant is an All-ACC performer who could be the top center drafted in April.

03 Maurkice Pouncey, junior, Florida Tim Tebow's center, Pouncey could be a first-day pick if he opts to leave school early.

04 Mike Pouncey, junior, Florida Maurkice's brother, Mike Pouncey could play either guard or center in the NFL.

05 Joe Asamoah, senior, Illinois A three-year starter at guard for the Illini, and one of the few bright spots in a forgettable Illinois season.

Small-School Sleeper: Vladimir Ducasse, senior, Massachusetts

DEFENSIVE END

01 Carlos Dunlap, junior, Florida The 2008 BCS title game MVP, Dunlap's been a terror off the edge in '09. Blessed with a superhuman 88-inch wingspan, Dunlap's 6-6 frame has pro scouts drooling. Compared to Mario Williams nearly every time he takes the field, Dunlap could have a similar career in the pros. At the very least, he'll be a top-10 pick in April's draft.

02 Greg Hardy, senior, Ole Miss Nagging foot injury may impact draft stock, but should still be a first-round pick.

03 Derrick Morgan, junior, Georgia Tech Simply cannot be blocked one-on-one at the college level; has NFL defensive end speed.

04 Jeremy Beal, junior, Oklahoma At 6-3, 250 pounds, Beal could either play the middle linebacker spot in a 4-3 or be a terrorizing edge rusher in a 3-4. He's really emerged in '09.

05 Willie Young, senior, North Carolina State Four-year contributor who follows in a long line of recent N.C. State defensive linemen drafted on the first day.

Small-School Sleeper: James Ruffin, senior, Northern Iowa

Dave Martin/Getty

Sam Greenwood/Getty

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

01 Ndamukong Suh, senior, Nebraska The Huskers' 300-pound space-eater became a media phenomenon after dominant performances in nationally televised games versus Virginia Tech and Missouri. Though Nebraska struggled throughout the month of October, Suh's star and draft stock only rose. Some have pushed him as a Heisman candidate. Draft experts think he's a top-five lock. Could play the nose tackle in a 3-4, or at DT in a 4-3 right away.

02 Terrence Cody, senior, Alabama The junior-college transfer got his weight down over the offseason and has been used on more consecutive plays in '09. Two blocked field goals versus Tennessee elevated his national profile.

03 Gerald McCoy, junior, Oklahoma Though the Sooners haven't had the best of luck in the win column in '09, McCoy's held down the middle of the defensive line with strength and speed. The rare run-stuffer who can also hurry the quarterback, McCoy is the heart and soul of Oklahoma's highly rated defense.

04 D'Anthony "Boo" Smith, senior, Louisiana Tech When healthy and in shape, he's as dominant a DT as there is in the college game. Alas, neither always healthy nor in shape.

05 Marvin Austin, junior, North Carolina This highly rated high school recruit began to deliver on the hype in his junior season, causing havoc at the line for the underrated Tar Heels defense.

Small-School Sleeper: Kendrick Ellis, junior, Hampton

LINEBACKER

01 Rolando McClain, junior, Alabama Though teammate Terrence Cody gets much of the Heisman and draft buzz, few would argue that McClain's been the heart and soul of Alabama's dominant defense in '09. Capable of going sideline to sideline on any given play, McClain's a prototype for the NFL linebacker position. At 6-4, 250 pounds, and blessed with safety/corner speed, he's in on every play. When teammate Dont'a Hightower went down with a season-ending injury in September, McClain stepped it up to make sure the Tide D didn't skip a beat.

02 Brandon Graham, senior, Michigan Senior leader proved he was more than just a pass rusher in '09. Like fellow Wolverine LaMarr Woodley before him, Graham could become a star in the NFL.

03 Brandon Spikes, senior, Florida A four-year contributor with two BCS titles (three, perhaps?), Spikes is a defensive demon, capable of getting to the quarterback and picking off a pass in coverage. A history of nagging injury issues could hurt his stock come April.

04 Greg Jones, junior, Michigan State College football's leading tackler in '09 through October, Jones knows the ILB position.

05 Sergio Kindle, senior, Texas Following in Brian Orakpo's enormous footsteps, Kindle's led the way for Will Muschamp's suffocating Longhorns defense. Like Orakpo, Kindle could play a variety of positions at the next level, though OLB seems to be the best fit.

Small-School Sleeper: Justin Cole, senior, San Jose State

Gregory Shamus/Getty

CORNERBACK

01 Joe Haden, junior, Florida The first true freshman cornerback ever to start on opening day for Florida, Haden's only gotten better in his three years in Gainesville. A ball-hawking 5-11 junior, Haden's gotten the best of SEC wideouts Julio Jones, A.J. Green, and Brandon LaFell in recent years. Thought to have sub-4.4 40 speed, Haden could go as early as the top 10 in April's draft.

02 Patrick Robinson, senior, Florida State One of the few bright spots on the usually stout Seminoles defense, Robinson has 4.4 speed and is deceptively strong for a 5-11 cornerback.

03 Ras-I Dowling, junior, Virginia At 6-2 and 205 pounds, Dowling is a physical, in-your-face defensive back. As tough as they come.

04 Kareem Jackson, junior, Alabama A regular contributor since he stepped on campus in '07, Jackson is as consistent a lockdown corner as you'll find in college football.

05 Syd'Quan Thompson, senior, California Packs a lot of punch into his 5-9 frame. Can be lethal in the return game, too.

Small-School Sleeper: Akwasi, Owusu-Ansah, senior, Indiana (Pa.)

SAFETY

01 Eric Berry, junior, Tennessee Perhaps the single most dominant defensive back in college football since Charles Woodson, Berry's the heart and soul of the Tennessee defense, as well as the SEC's top defender. Stellar performances versus No.1-ranked Florida in September and No.1 ranked Alabama in October helped make the lightning-fast junior a household name. He'll be a top-10 pick and perhaps the first safety drafted in the top three since Eric Turner was taken second overall in 1991.

02 Taylor Mays, senior, USC Four-year superstar. Most common criticism is that he sometimes goes for the "hit" instead of the sure tackle. Most coaches will take that as a player's greatest flaw.

03 Kam Chancellor, senior, Virginia Tech A 6-4, 230-pound beast of a safety, Chancellor could play OLB in the NFL, too. Inconsistent at times, but a physical specimen worthy of a first-day pick.

04 Ahmad Black, junior, Florida Often overlooked due to teammate Joe Haden, Black is a game-changing safety who causes turnovers and hits with fury.

05 Nate Allen, senior, South Florida Re-emerged onto the scene with an outstanding senior season after a somewhat disappointing junior campaign.

Small-School Sleeper: Shann Sillinger, senior, Montana

Andy Lyons/Getty

Sarah Patterson hopes to lead
Tide to another national title



University of Alabama

GYMNASTICS

By Andrew Varble II

Aiming High

Experienced Bama wants fifth national title

It's been a busy fall for the Southeastern Conference defending champion Alabama gymnastics team. There was an appearance at midfield of Bryant-Denny Stadium in September to receive championship rings in front of 92,000-plus fans. Star senior Morgan Dennis was back on football terra firma a few weeks later as part of the Homecoming court. The Tide was also active in the community, lending a hand with October's "Power of Pink"—the Tuscaloosa Toyota/DCH Foundation Golf Tournament and the Tide's Halloween Extravaganza aimed at the children of the Tuscaloosa community.

But the real focus of the fall has been in the practice gym where the gymnasts have been getting ready to not only defend their SEC title, which was the Tide's sixth since 1988, but also a shot at moving up one more spot in the final national rankings, up to number one and a fifth NCAA Championship.

For coaches Sarah and David Patterson, now in their 32nd season coaching the Tide, and assistant coaches Bryan Raschilla and Dana Duckworth, the task at hand is a familiar one—blending the Tide's trio of newcomers in with its veterans.

"We return 23 of 24 routines from last year's NCAA Championships," Head Coach Sarah Patterson said. "This is probably



Morgan Dennis is All-America for Bama gymnastics

University of Alabama

the most experienced team that we've had over the last several years. In some ways that makes it a little easier going into the season. We know what to expect from Morgan and Ricki (Lebegern) and Kassi (Price). The number of unknowns going into this season are certainly fewer."

Alabama returns five seniors in 2010, including four All-America performers. Overall the Tide's lineup sports seven All-Americans – senior Dennis, Lebegern, Price and Casey Overton; junior Kayla Hoffman; and sophomores Ashley Priess and Rachel Terry.

Dennis, Lebegern, Priess and sophomore Geralen Stack-Eaton all went all-around last season, providing the Tide two-thirds of its lineup with just four athletes. With three All-Americans and an all-conference performer (Stack-Eaton) going all-around, the Tide has as good a base as any team in the country.

Dennis will once again anchor Alabama's vault and floor exercise lineup as well as providing top-end scores on the uneven bars and balance beam. The five-time All-America and NCAA floor exercise champion posted a career-high 39.725 in the all-around last season, the Tide's highest total since 2004, and she shows no signs of slowing down going into her final season. Lebegern led the Tide in routines last season and has been the rock upon which Alabama's lineup has been built. A three-time SEC Champion, she

earned three All-America honors as a junior. Dennis and Lebegern were voted captains of last year's squad by their teammates.

Priess and Stack-Eaton grew into their all-around roles last season, finishing things off with a flourish. Priess was a four-time All-America as a rookie and turned in the Tide's top all-around score at last year's NCAA Championships. Stack-Eaton has had a particularly strong fall, including leading the Tide in the annual Ghosts and Goblins intrasquad meet, one of the preseason benchmarks for the gymnasts, in late October.

"Geralen had a great intrasquad and really carried over what she's done this fall into a competitive situation," Patterson said. "She's really progressed to the point where I'd say she's even ahead of where she finished off last season."

After specializing in the vault and uneven bars, Hoffman is a candidate to return to the all-around. She was slowed last season after shoulder surgery in the summer. Her return to the vault and uneven bars lineup late in the season was a huge boost for the Tide going into the championship season. Back to full strength, the vault All-America will give the Tide yet another all-around option in 2010.

Terry came up big for Alabama on both the uneven bars and vault at different points in the season, including a huge vault at the NCAA Championships which earned her All-America honors. A nagging shoulder problem sidelined Overton from last year's regionals and NCAA Championships. When she is healthy, she is one of the nation's steadiest on the balance beam, where she earned All-America honors as a sophomore.

Senior Alyssa Chapman, junior Megan Mashburn and sophomores Jocelyn Fowler and Erika Pearson all made debuts in the competitive lineup last season and should continue to add to the Tide's depth on several events.

Adding to the Tide's 2010 lineup will be the freshman trio of Marissa Gutierrez, Mary Hauswirth, and Ashley Sledge. Gutierrez and Sledge have both medaled at the Junior Olympic National Championships while Hauswirth has done the same at the Eastern National Championships.

And while they earn gold in the gym, Alabama gymnasts are also champions in the classroom. Last season the Tide finished fourth overall nationally by team grade point average and was the only team at last year's NCAA Championships to finish among the top-10 academically. Three gymnasts—Price, Terry and Chapman—earned perfect 4.0 grade point averages (GPA) last season, while six others earned better than a 3.75 GPA. Price, Chapman, Terry, Lebegern, Overton, Mashburn, Hoffman, Priess and Fowler all return with Scholastic All-America honors on their resume.

Even if the Tide's roster wasn't laden with veterans, Alabama would certainly be battle tested at the end of the 2010 regular season. Opening with the Auburn Tigers on the road where Alabama will be looking for its 98th consecutive win over the Tigers, the Tide then faces five-time defending national champion Georgia to open its home slate. NCAA Super Six teams Arkansas and Florida as well as national powers Michigan and Arizona will also make visits to Tuscaloosa this winter while the Tide travels to LSU, Penn State, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

For those who believe in omens, the Tide's trip to take on the Sooners is a good one. The last time Alabama followed an SEC Championship with a trip to Norman in the regular season was 1991.

Auburn Ducks Bama

There's an old joke in the Southeastern Conference that Auburn is Georgia West and Georgia is Auburn East. It stems from so many coaches and administrators having been affiliated with both schools, and also because Auburn attracted a number of students from Georgia over the years.

Add another reason.

For years, among the most anticipated events in Alabama and in Georgia athletics were the annual dual meets between the SEC gymnastics powers, the Bulldogs of Coach Suzanne Yoculan (considered the black hats) and the Crimson Tide of Coach Sarah Patterson (the good guys). Each year the teams met twice in regular season, once in Tuscaloosa and once in Athens. The events were frequently sold out and a terrific boost for gymnastics.

Even though Georgia usually defeated Alabama, in 2002 Yoculan shocked the Crimson Tide by announcing she would not longer compete against Alabama in the home-and-home events after the 2003 season.

In a much more one-sided rivalry, Alabama and Auburn have participated in home-and-home events 25 of the past 29 seasons. Bama will open the season this year in Auburn on January 8, but there will be no return trip from Auburn this year.

Auburn has decided it will no longer compete twice a year against Alabama.

In this age of a demand for transparency, Auburn didn't have to explain its reason for ducking Bama. Alabama under Patterson has defeated Auburn in 98 consecutive meets (dual meets and tournaments).

Bama will likely be denied reaching eh 100 plateau before a home crowd in Tuscaloosa since the Tide will meet the Tigers in the SEC Tournament in Jacksonville, Florida, March 27.

According to the *Tuscaloosa News*, "Auburn cited the desire to schedule out-of-conference opponents during non-SEC dates as the reason for pulling out of the long-standing home-and-home meets."

The Auburn meet was to be the Power of Pink meet, the Tide's annual breast cancer awareness meet. Patterson said the popularity of the event ultimately helped sell the date to Arizona, which agreed to be in Tuscaloosa February 19.

—Kirk McNair

Later that season the Tide won its second NCAA Championship.

"It's a challenging schedule," Patterson said. "Every year we try to put together a schedule that will prepare us for the end. When we got to the postseason last year we weren't looking over our shoulders. We'd seen the best and I think that really helped us focus on what was important."

And for the Tide, in 2010, with a veteran and very experienced squad, one bolstered by talented rookies, this could be a season where the very best, on the last night of the season, could be wearing the crimson and white of Alabama. ■

2010 Alabama Gymnastics Roster

Name	Event	Hgt.	Cl.	Hometown (School)
Alyssa Chapman	All-Around	5-3	SR	Spartanburg, S.C. (Dorman)
Morgan Dennis	All-Around	5-4	SR	Westampton, N.J. (Holy Cross)
Jocelyn Fowler	All-Around	5-0	SO	Tuscaloosa (American Christian)
Marissa Gutierrez	All-Around	5-2	FR	Houston, Texas (Clear Brook)
Mary Hauswirth	All-Around	5-5	FR	Utica, Mich. (Utica)
Kayla Hoffman	All-Around	5-1	JR	Union, N.J. (Home Schooled)
Ricki Lebegern	All-Around	5-0	SR	Annandale, Va. (Falls Church)
Megan Mashburn	All-Around	5-4	JR	Greenville, S.C. (Evans)
Casey Overton	All-Around	5-2	SR	Virginia Beach, Va. (Alpha Omega)
Erika Pearson	All-Around	5-3	SO	Chickamauga, Ga. (Gordon Lee)
Kassi Price	All-Around	5-5	SR	Plantation, Fla. (Crenshaw School)
Ashley Priess	All-Around	5-3	SO	Wheaton, Ill. (Lakota West)
Ashley Sledge	All-Around	5-4	FR	Fairview Heights, Ill. (Belleville East)
Geralen Stack-Eaton	All-Around	5-3	SO	Horsham, Penn. (Home Schooled)
Rachel Terry	All-Around	4-10	SO	Hoover, Ala. (SMIC Academy)

Head Coach: Sarah Patterson

Assistant Coaches: Bryan Raschilla, Dana Duckworth, David Patterson

RECRUITING

By Andrew Bone

Prep Prospects

Tide is reloading, not rebuilding

As everyone knows, recruiting is the lifeblood of a college team. In most sports, a team can be built quickly with recruiting. Even in a highly competitive sport like men's basketball, one or two top freshmen can put a team into immediate contention. It is not at all uncommon for freshmen to be contributors, or even stars, on teams in many sports.

In football, it's usually a different story. It takes a lot of men to make up a football team, and generally speaking most positions take considerable experience before there is great proficiency. The most common example is when Nebraska was in its heyday and year-after-year having an offensive line made up of fourth- and fifth-year men who were first- or second year starters.

Alabama has a number of good football players, quite a few of them recruited in the past year or two under Coach Nick Saban. The Crimson Tide has been one of the nation's top teams the past two seasons and is in that spot where almost all positions are well-stocked. But the cupboard gets bare quickly, particularly when players are good enough to leave after their junior seasons to try professional football.

Saban and his staff are working continually to have top new players added to the Bama squad. Here's a look at the building process, position-by-position:

Quarterback

The Alabama coaching staff has been very selective with the quarterbacks they have recruited, and the last remaining scholarship signal caller on the Tide's staff from the Mike Shula era is Greg McElroy. He is the first person to tell you the former coaching staff did not extend a scholarship offer until after learning Tim Tebow had chosen Florida over Alabama.

Quarterback Robert Marve was committed to Alabama when Saban arrived, but switched to Miami. He has since left their program. Nick Fanuzzi became the quarterback of choice out of Texas. Fanuzzi was a U.S. Army All-America and signed with the Tide. He didn't spend much time in Tuscaloosa, transferring to Rice after his first year.

Alabama finished the 2008 recruiting year with the number one ranked class in the country. Star Jackson signed with Alabama and currently is listed as one of the back-ups to McElroy on the "depth chart."

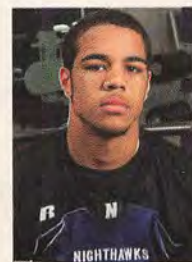
Alabama signed AJ McCarron from St. Paul's in Mobile last February. McCarron has created a buzz in Tuscaloosa since his



Phillip Sims



Corey Grant



Keenan Allen

Photos by Scout.com

arrival. Comparisons are to Brodie Croyle, both with rocket arms but not much weight. McCarron is in a redshirt season with an eagerness to compete for a dominant role in the 2010 season.

Alabama has a commitment in the class of 2010 from Phillip Sims, Scout.com five-star from Oscar F. Smith High School in Chesapeake, Virginia. Sims arrives on campus in January after his early graduation. He is the all-time leading passer in Virginia high school football history. He will also have the opportunity to compete in the position battles this spring.

Blake Sims, Scout.com four-star safety from Gainesville, Georgia, is a 'wild card' and could see valuable time in the 'wildcat formation' in Tuscaloosa. He was sensational as a senior at the quarterback position, but many projections have him playing wide receiver or safety.

Running Back

Terry Grant and Mike Ford were both signed in the 2006 class, and Ford was expected to re-sign after spending a season at Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, Virginia. Ford enrolled at South Florida instead.

Three running backs signed with Alabama in the 2007 class which included Demetrius Goode, Jamar Taylor and Jeramie Griffin. Goode and Griffin are still in Tuscaloosa playing football, but have not seen significant playing time as both have had to battle to recover from knee injuries.

Jamar Taylor enrolled early at Alabama and had a terrific spring. However he was granted a transfer for personal reasons and will play football closer to home. Taylor enrolled at South Florida.

Alabama signed running backs Ivan Matchett, Jermaine Preyear, and Mark Ingram in 2008. Ingram was an underrated three-star recruit coming out of high school, but is looking like one of the best-ever running backs in the rich tradition of the Crimson Tide.

Ivan Matchett is no longer on the roster due to medical reasons, and Jermaine Preyear left the team during the summer before the 2009 season.

After losing to Florida in the 2008 SEC Championship game, coach Nick Saban "stole" the Sunshine State's best prospect in Trent Richardson for one of the crown jewels in the 2009 class. Richardson has already made a significant impact as a true freshman.

Alabama also landed stud four-star running back Eddie Lacy from the state of Louisiana. Lacy is primed to make an impact in the future and is taking a redshirt this year. Mike Marrow was signed as a big running back in the same class, but could move to linebacker.

The coaching staff has received a pair of running back commitments for the 2010 class. Jalston Fowler from Vigor High School is an excellent back who has size, speed and incredible vision. He is a big bruising back who will challenge for early playing time. He enrolls at Alabama in January.

Corey Grant, Scout.com four-star from Opelika, is one of the fastest players in the state. He could split out at the wide receiver position or play in the backfield. He could make an immediate impact as a kick and punt return specialist.

Wide Receiver

One area Alabama has recruited well is at the wide receiver position. The staff has signed some excellent players over the last several years and have lost only three since 2006.

The 2006 class included Earl Alexander, Mike McCoy and Nikita Stover. Stover re-signed with Alabama after spending two years at junior college. Alexander played quarterback in high school, but understood he was recruited as an athlete.

Alabama didn't have any wide receivers committed prior to Nick Saban's arrival, but he quickly got a few on board for the 2007 class including Darius Hanks, Brandon Gibson, and Marquis Maze. Gibson was favoring the Tide before Saban's arrival, but Hanks nor Maze had an offer from Alabama. Maze was planning to head out-of-state to Miami or Michigan.

Alabama signed four receivers in the 2008 class, but only one remains with the Tide today: Julio Jones. Jones committed to Alabama on signing day over Oklahoma out of the slew of scholarship offers nationwide.

Alabama also signed Chris Jackson, Destin Hood and Melvin Ray. Hood and Ray never made it to campus due to their draft in Major League Baseball. Jackson spent a year at Alabama. He originally committed to Georgia Tech before Paul Johnson arrived in Atlanta, but switched his decision to Alabama. He is now back at Georgia Tech after transferring during the summer.

All of the Tide's 2009 signees are in Tuscaloosa including Kevin Norwood, Kendall Kelly, Kenny Bell and Michael Bowman. Norwood and Bowman received a lot of praise during fall practice. Kendall Kelly came in to fall camp after having surgery on his hip, and Bell battled through shin splints during the season.

The coaching staff targeted speedy, electric receivers in the 2010 class and have succeeded thus far with commitments from DeAndrew White, Scout.com four-star from Galena Park (Texas) North Shore, Ronald Carswell, four-star from Macon (Georgia) Westside, and Keiwone Malone, three-star from Memphis Mitchell Road. Keenan Allen, a five-star safety from Greensboro, North Carolina, committed to the Tide as a wide receiver.



Brian Vogler



Chad Lindsay



Wilson Love

Photos by Scout.com

Tight End

Alabama has not signed many tight ends since the 2006 class, but they did receive a big boost when Collin Peek transferred from Georgia Tech after the 2007 season. He was forced to sit out during the 2008 season after transferring, but made a significant impact on offense for the Crimson Tide during the 2009 season.

Alabama signed Preston Dial in 2006 and landed Chris Underwood the following year. The Tide signed Brad Smelley and Michael Williams in the 2008 class.

Smelley has been a solid contributor since his arrival. Williams originally started out on the defensive line, but found his way to the offense. He saw a lot of action in 2009.

The coaching staff made the tight end position a priority for the 2010 class and received commitments from Brian Vogler, Scout.com four-star from Columbus (Georgia) Brookstone School and Harrison Jones, three-star from Cordova (Tennessee) Evangelical Christian. Vogler is a monster prospect at 6-foot-7, 250-pounds. Jones is a modest 6-foot-4, 230-pounds. He is also the younger brother of Alabama starting offensive guard Barrett Jones.

Offensive Line

Alabama has been relatively thin on the offensive line for the last few years. They have moved a few people from the defensive side of the ball to add depth, but still have room for improvement.

Andre Smith was one of the biggest signees in the history of Alabama football. He was the Number One rated offensive lineman in the country and won the Outland Trophy as a junior. He is a player who lived up to all expectations.

The other offensive linemen signed in the class were David Ross, Alex Stadler, Taylor Pharr and Brian Motley.

Ross and Pharr have remained on the offensive line since their arrival. Motley moved to the offensive side of the ball from starting out on defense. Stadler spent a year in Tuscaloosa, but moved back home to Virginia.

William Vlachos and Patrick Crump were both signed in Nick Saban's first class. Crump received a grayshirt, but decided to give up football after his first season. Vlachos started on the offensive line during the 2009 season at center. He did a superb job replacing All-America Antoine Caldwell.

Barrett Jones, Tyler Love and John Michael Boswell were the only three linemen signed in the 2008 class. All three played in high school All-American games. Boswell received playing time as freshman and Jones started at right guard during the 2009 season.

A lot of expectation were made for D.J. Fluker in the 2009 class, but they were unrealistic. He had only played offensive tackle for one year prior to his arrival in Tuscaloosa.

James Carpenter has been one of the best surprises in the 2009



Demarcus Milliner

Photos by Scout.com

class, and it benefitted him enrolling early last January to practice in the spring.

Alabama also signed Anthony Steen, Chance Warmack, Kellen Williams and Darius McKeller. McKeller

accepted a grayshirt offer.

Austin Shepherd, Scout.com three-star offensive guard from Suwanee (Georgia) North Gwinnett, and Chad Lindsay, three-star offensive guard from The Woodlands, Texas, are both 2010 commitments who will enroll at The Capstone in January.

Defensive Line

Shula signed only one defensive lineman in his final recruiting class. Milton Talbert, from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, remains on the team.

Alabama signed several defensive linemen in the 2008 class which included Kerry Murphy, Josh Chapman, Luther Davis, Alex Watkins, Alfred McCullough, Nick Gentry, Chavis Williams and Jeremy Elder.

Kerry Murphy failed to qualify and spent the following year at Hargrave Military Academy. All remain on the Crimson Tide's team except for Jeremy Elder who was dismissed from the team.

Alabama's number one in 2008 featured 'Mt. Cody' (Terrence Cody), who was a junior college transfer from Mississippi Gulf Coast. Marcel Dareus is playing at an All-American level as a sophomore. Damion Square tore his ACL and missed the 2009 season.

Others signed in the class were Undra Billingsley, Glenn Harbin and Brandon Lewis. Billingsley and Harbin are in Tuscaloosa while Lewis had to spend time at East Mississippi Community College before enrolling at Alabama in January. Kerry Murphy re-signed with Alabama and went through spring training last year with the Tide. He made contributions throughout the season and his role will definitely increase in the future.

Alabama signed William Ming, Darrington Sentimore, Chris Bonds, Ed Stinson, Quinton Dial, Anthony Orr and Brandon Moore in the 2009 recruiting class. Dial was the only defensive lineman who failed to qualify and is at East Mississippi Community College. Orr accepted a grayshirt and will practice with the Tide in the spring.

Wilson Love, younger brother of Tyler Love, is the only high school defensive lineman committed to Alabama for the 2010 class, but the Tide will re-sign Brandon Lewis.

Linebacker

Alabama only has one linebacker remaining from the 2006 and 2007 recruiting class: Rolando McClain. Charlie Higgenbotham, Charlie Kirschman and LaBronski Hutchins were the only three linebackers signed by Shula in his final recruiting class.

Hutchins never qualified, Higgenbotham transferred before the 2009 season to South Alabama, and Kirschman has graduated.

McClain was committed to Alabama before Shula was dismissed, but signed with Saban. The only other linebacker signed was Jennings Hester who is no longer with the team.

The 2008 linebacker class was outstanding which included superstar Dont'a Hightower and also featured first year contributors

Jerrell Harris, Courtney Upshaw and Chris Jordan. Devonta Bolton failed to qualify, but will re-sign with the Tide and could see time on the offensive side of the ball.

The class of 2009 included players who are expected to become heavyweights at the positions in Nico Johnson, Tana Patrick, Petey Smith and Jonathan Atchinson. Johnson, a Scout.com five-star recruit, took over for Dont'a Hightower and did an outstanding job this season. Petey Smith took a grayshirt offer.

The 2010 class features two outstanding players in Devonta Bolton, who will re-sign and be at The Capstone for spring practice, and Alfie Hill. The Tide's commitment of Hill may have helped turn Craig Sanders' commitment to Auburn. Hill has tremendous upside and expected to compete at the 'Jack' linebacker position.

Defensive Back

Shula's final class of defensive backs was very deep, signing seven in the 2006 class. Marcus Udell did not qualify and spent time in a couple of junior colleges before landing at Middle Tennessee. Jake Jones left due to medical reasons, and Andy Davis transferred to Samford where he had a successful college career.

One of the biggest steals in the country happened when Alabama offered Javier Arenas, whose only previous offer was from Florida International. He's a starting cornerback and kick return specialist.

Justin Woodall has been a big contributor for Alabama, starting at safety the last two seasons. Marquis Johnson has seen significant playing time.

Saban's first class consisted of Kareem Jackson, Terrance Farmer and Chris Lett. Jackson started early in his career and hasn't looked back. Farmer transferred, and Lett was released on a medical hardship.

The 2008 class was stout with Alonzo Lawrence, Robby Green, Robert Lester, B.J. Scott, Wesley Neighbors and Mark Barron. Green and Barron contributed as freshmen. Lawrence left the program and transferred to Southern Miss.

Scott switched positions from wide receiver to cornerback after his first year and redshirted for the 2009 season.

Dre Kirkpatrick and Rod Woodson were the only two defensive backs signed in the 2009 class. Kirkpatrick has seen action in both the secondary and special teams in year one. Woodson was a standout on kickoff coverage.

The Tide coaching staff made the defensive back unit a priority for the 2010 class. Results were outstanding. Early commitments came from Demarcus Milliner, Scout.com five-star cornerback from Millbrook Stanhope Elmore; Jarrick Williams, four-star safety from Prichard Blount; Nick Perry, four-star safety from Prattville; and Deion Belue, an undrafted three-star cornerback from Tuscumbia Deshler.

Kicker

Alabama has offered a scholarship to only one player since 2006. Corey Smith signed in 2008, but left the program for West Virginia, which is closer to his home. P.J. Fitzgerald (punter) and Leigh Tiffin (placekicker) were preferred walk-ons with Tiffin and Fitzgerald later added on scholarship.

Saban knows the value of a great kicker and punter, and it was a priority for the 2010 class with the departure of Tiffin and Fitzgerald. He received commitments from Cade Foster, Scout.com number three kicker in the country from Southlake (Texas) Carroll, and Jay Williams, Scout.com number five punter, from Thomasville. ■

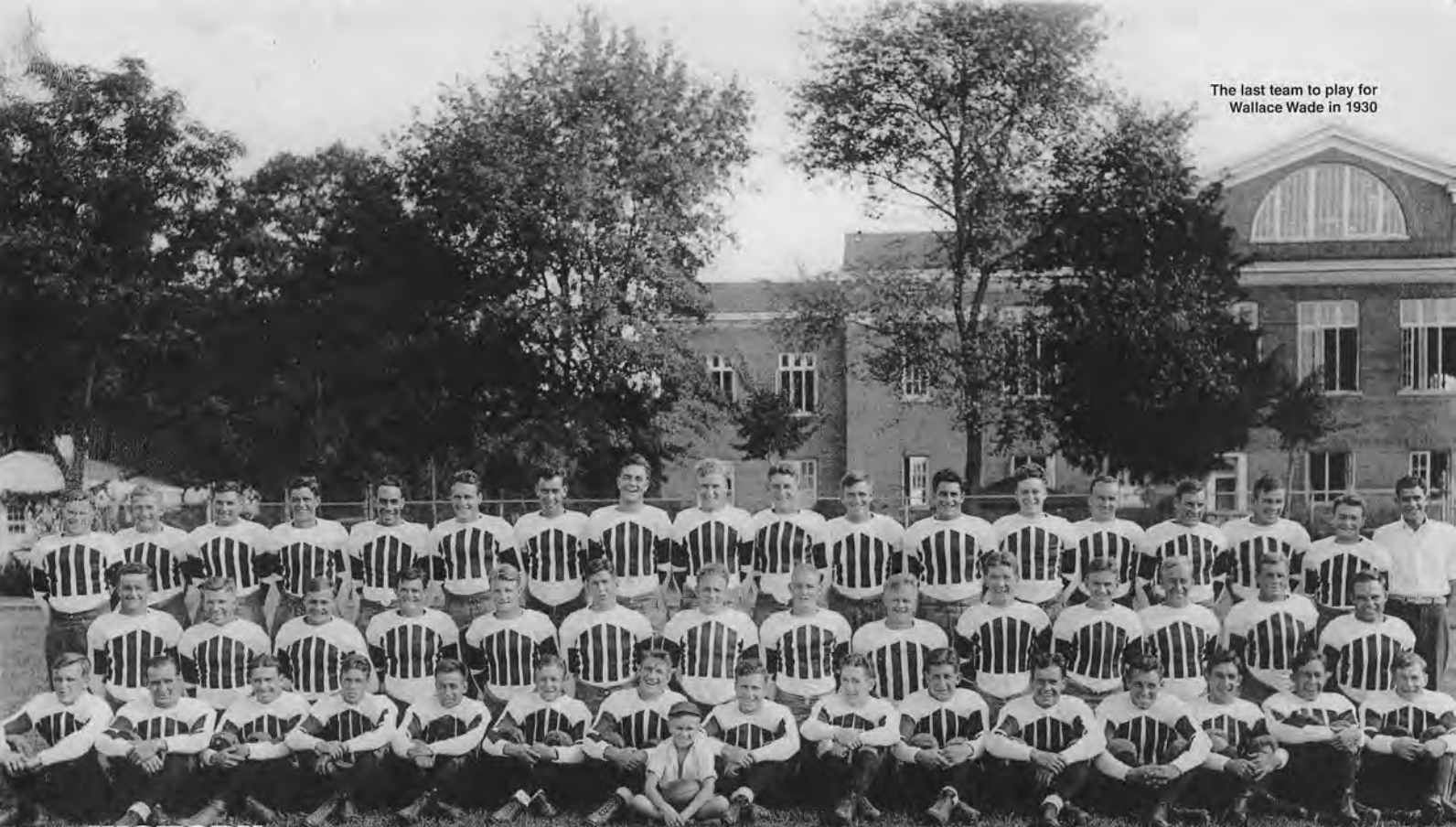
HOT LIST

2010 Bama Football Prospects

Alabama Football Prospects as determined by Andrew Bone of 'BAMA Magazine and Scout Media

Name, Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Time	Hometown (School)	Name, Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Time	Hometown (School)
*Keenan Allen, S	6-3	195	4.5	Greensboro, N.C. (Northern Guilford)	Arie Kouandjio, OT	6-6	320		Hyattsville, Md. (Dematha Catholic)
*Deion Belue, CB	6-0	175	4.4	Tuscumbia (Deshler)	*Brandon Lewis, DT	6-3	280		Scooba, Miss. (East Mississippi C.C.)
*Devonta Bolton, OLB	6-4	230	4.5	Scooba, Miss. (East Mississippi C.C.)	*Chad Lindsey, OG	6-3	310		The Woodlands, Texas
*Ronald Carswell, WR	6-0	180	4.5	Marcon, Ga. (Westside)	*Wilson Love, DE	6-4	245		Mountain Brook
Caleb Castille, WR	5-10	165		Birmingham (Briarwood Christian)	Jeff Luc, MLB	6-1	240		Port St. Lucie, Fla. (Treasure Coast)
Shon Coleman, OT	6-7	285		Olive Branch, Miss.	*Keiwone Malone, WR	6-1	165	4.5	Memphis (Mitchell Road)
Ahmad Dixon, S	6-1	190		Waco, Texas, (Midway)	Jonathan McKnight, CB	6-1	185	4.5	River Ridge, La. (John Curtis)
Chris Dunkley, WR	5-11	170	4.43	Pahokee, Fla.	*Demarcus Milliner, CB	6-1	175	4.5	Millbrook (Stanhope Elmore)
*Cade Foster, K	6-1	215		Southlake, Texas (Carroll)	C.J. Mosley, OLB	6-2	216		Theodore
*Jalston Fowler, RB	6-0	245	4.65	Prichard (Vigor)	*Nick Perry, S	6-1	190		Prattville
Johnavon Fulton, CB	6-0	180	4.5	Manning, S.C.	Damien Robinson, OT	6-8	330		Olive Branch, Miss.
*Corey Grant, RB	5-11	185	4.45	Opelika	Vincent Sanders, WR	6-3	185		Macon, Miss. (Noxubee County)
Carlos Gray, DT	6-3	300		Pinson (Pinson Valley)	*Austin Shepherd, OG	6-4	315		Suwanee, Ga. (North Gwinnett)
Maurice Hayes, DT	6-2	314		Bakersfield, Calif. (Bakersfield J.C.)	*Blake Sims, QB	6-0	185	4.5	Gainesville, Ga.
Jordan Hicks, OLB	6-2	200		West Chester, Ohio (Lakota West)	*Phillip Sims, QB	6-2	215	4.7	Chesapeake, Va. (Oscar F. Smith)
*Alfy Hill, DE	6-4	245		Shallotte, N.C. (West Brunswick)	James Stone, OG	6-5	280		Nashville (Maplewood)
Adrian Hubbard, DE	6-7	227		Norcross, Ga.	Dale Trimble, CB	5-10	170	4.5	Gadsden (Gadsden City)
Maudrecus Humphrey, WR	6-2	185		Hoover	*Brian Vogler, TE	6-8	237	4.82	Columbus, Ga. (Brookstone)
JaWuan James, OT	6-6	285		Suwanee, Ga. (North Gwinnett)	*DeAndrew White, WR	5-11	165	4.4	Galena Park, Texas (North Shore)
Christian Jones, OLB	6-4	215		Winter Park, Fla. (Lake Howell)	Jackie Williams, WR	5-10	175		Semmes (Mary Montgomery)
*Harrison Jones, TE	6-4	215		Cordova, Tenn. (Evangelical Christian)	*Jarrick Williams, S	6-2	200	4.6	Prichard (Blount)
Lamarcus Joyner, CB	5-8	165	4.32	Ft. Lauderdale (St. Thomas Aquinas)	*Jay Williams, K	6-4	220		Thomasville
Gabe King, DE	6-5	230		Greensboro, N.C. (Page)	James Wright, WR	6-2	195		Belle Chasse, La.

*Committed to Alabama



HISTORY

By Lewis Bowling

Wade Set Bar High

Bryant didn't play for Wade, but admired him

Bryant Museum

Bad news rocked the state of Alabama when Wallace Wade announced his resignation as football coach, effective after the 1930 season. Wade was leaving to become head coach at Duke in 1931. Duke University, located in Durham, North Carolina, had enticed Wade with what was in 1930 one of the highest salaries of any coach in the country: \$12,500 a year plus a percentage of gate receipts.

One important sign of respect that President George Denny showed Wade was that he accepted Wade's choice of successor. Wade told Denny that "there is a young backfield coach at the University of Georgia who should become one of the greatest coaches in the country. He played football under Rockne at Notre Dame. Rockne called him one of the smartest players he ever coached. He is Frank Thomas, and I don't believe you could pick a better man."

Calling Thomas, Wade set up a meeting between the two of them at a track meet in Birmingham. Thomas agreed, not having

any idea that Wade had resigned.

Meeting underneath the west stands of Legion Field as rain was pouring down, Wade got right to the point, as was his custom. "Well, I've done it, Frank," said Wade. "I've resigned to become head coach at Duke University, and I have recommended you to succeed me at Alabama." Thomas was stunned. Wade continued to tell Thomas what a good situation Alabama would be for him, but Thomas did not need much convincing.

"You'll hear from Alabama within the next few days," Wade said before departing. Sure enough, Thomas was called to meet with Denny in Birmingham on July 15. Borden Burr, an influential Alabama alumnus, and Ed Camp, an Atlanta newspaperman, also attended this meeting in which Thomas was officially offered the job. Frank Thomas would carry on the great tradition at Alabama started by Wallace Wade.

The 1930 team practices
at the Rose Bowl



Bryant Museum

* * *

Coach Wade called his players together on the first day of practice in 1930 and said, "Boys, I'm going to win the damn championship this year. Now those of you who want to be part of it, let's get going. If there is anybody here that is not 100 per cent committed, leave now." No one left.

The backfield for 1930 equaled any in the country, with Johnny Cain, John Henry Suther, and Monk Campbell; with Fred Sington, Frank Howard, Charles Clement and Carney Laslie at tackle and guard spots, the line looked to be exceptional. For sure, this was going to be a team to be reckoned with.

There is absolutely no question that Wade, possessed of fierce pride and determination, wanted to go out with a bang. He had built Alabama into a power, and he wanted to be sure he left the

program at the top. Preseason practices took on a higher intensity than any seen in his previous years, and Wade's practices had always been characterized by hard-nosed, intense effort. But Wade drove his players even harder than before, and the results of this preparation would take the college football world in 1930 by storm.

Alabama opened the year with an easy 43 to 0 win over Howard in Tuscaloosa. In this game, Hugh Miller drop kicked a field goal from 40 yards out for three points.

* * *

In 1943, Navy Lieutenant Hugh Miller credited Coach Wade with saving his life during World War II. Miller, then 33, said that the "will to win" he learned during his playing days at Alabama helped him survive a 43-day stay against the Japanese on Arundel

"In my senior year, I had a date lined up with this pretty little ol' girl. It was my first date with her. I was in the bathroom shaving and getting all pretty when Coach Wade walked in. He didn't like for you to go with girls. 'Howard,' he said, 'what are you doing tonight?' 'Nothing, Coach. Not a thing,' I replied. 'Well, I want you to come around and baby sit with my two children,' Coach Wade said. 'Be there at 7:30. Mrs. Wade and I are going to the picture show.' So, I had to call that gal and tell her I couldn't make it. Coach paid me a whole 25 cents to baby sit. And, you know, I never did get a date with that gal again."

Island in the Solomons. From Tuscaloosa, Miller served as a gunnery officer on the destroyer Strong, which was sunk in Kula Gulf on July 4, 1943. Despite serious injuries from underwater explosions, he saved the lives of two men who were trapped against the side of the sinking ship, then joined 16 other men on a life raft.

They drifted for four days and when they landed on Arundel Island, only four were still alive. "There were Japs all around," Miller recalled. "I was losing so much blood I didn't think I had a chance to get through. I ordered the other three to take the equipment we had saved and go on. They did so reluctantly." Alone and bleeding badly, Miller laid on the ground and waited for death to come.

"I was doing a lot of thinking," said Miller, "and I remembered what Coach Wade used to tell us—that if you believed you could win, nothing could stop you. I asked myself what the hell I was lying there for and began to feel better."

Soon the Japanese found his tracks on the beach, and sent out patrols looking to capture him. Miller found some dead Japanese soldiers that had earlier been killed by an American P-T boat, and stripped them of what equipment he could use. His old quarterback days at Alabama came into use one when he was cornered by a five-man patrol. He threw a grenade right on target and killed all five.

Miller remembered, "I got so I knew the jungle better than the

Japs. I've hunted throughout Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana and know how to live in the wilds. My football training, however, saved me from sure death, but I don't know how much good it would have done me if I hadn't played under Coach Wade. I think he is the greatest coach in the game."

Miller continued to elude capture on the island until August 16, when he was rescued.

Earlier in 1943, before the Miller incident, Lieutenant Colonel Wallace Wade, then commanding officer of the 272nd Field Artillery Battalion, was recuperating from a broken leg suffered in training at Camp Butner, North Carolina. Wade had resigned from Duke as head coach to volunteer for service. A reporter in Augusta, Georgia, had asked him, while Wade was getting treatment at Oliver General Hospital, about whether football would continue to be played during World War II. Wade told him:

"I know of nothing that is a better preparation for a young man who is going into the Army than football. The greatest benefit that football gives to a young man is that it teaches him to be a competitor, to never give up, to get back up after you're knocked down. Success in both football and war depends upon morale, loyalty, and sound fundamentals."

In January of 1957, Wallace Wade was asked to appear on the television program "This Is Your Life." The show was about the life of Hugh Miller, who had requested that his old coach be there. On the program, Miller again credited Wade for his survival due mainly to Wade's "never give up" philosophy of life. A man of 65 years and one whose greatest loves in life were football and the military, Wade embraced Miller and modestly said that Miller had "a fighting spirit" in him from the time he came to Alabama to play football, and that was the reason for his surviving those horrid days eluding the Japanese in 1943 on that dense, jungle island at the height of World War II.

* * *

Alabama rolled through its next seven games to raise its record to 8-0. The last game of the regular season had Alabama in Birmingham against the Georgia Bulldogs. Georgia came into the game 6-1-1 with a big win earlier in the season over Yale at Yale. Georgia was coached by Harry Mehre. By the date of this game, November 27, Washington State had already been chosen to represent the West in the Rose Bowl, and the winner of the Alabama-Georgia game was the probable selection as the opponent. Two Washington State scouts sat in the stands and saw Alabama beat Georgia 13 to 0.

The game at Legion Field had not only the Rose Bowl on the line but also a Southern Conference championship and an undefeated record at stake in Alabama's case. Fans totaling 29,000 attended the game, and they saw Johnny Cain run for 118 yards and two touchdowns. J.B. Roberts, Jr., a local reporter, was at the game along with many newsmen. He wrote,

"William Wallace Wade bid a dramatic adieu to the University of Alabama as his football eleven, the men who have learned all of the football that they know from him, swept a determined and inspired Georgia team aside to gain a 13 to 0 verdict. The atmosphere around Legion Field seemed to breathe of an Alabama day, and the 29,000 gaping fans who wedged their way into every available space within

the enclosure, had the feeling that the Tide was bound for glory. Just before the game began, and after Georgia had gained a distinct advantage by winning the toss and getting a stiff wind at their backs, Wallace Wade gathered his red-clad boys around him and with a quivering chin, spoke to them and asked them to give their very best. And the way Captain Clement, Freddie Sington, and the rest of Alabama's great crew slapped the departing leader on the back and shook his hand, made the issue practically certain to those who knew. Straight bucks and off tackle sweeps by Johnny Cain, Suther, and Campbell accounted for big yards. At halftime and at the end of the game, Coach Wade received the tribute of the witnessing thousands as mighty Wade, Wade, Wades resounded through Legion Field. Few men have ever been accorded the honor that was Mr. Wade's."

M.E. Nunn, also at the game, wrote, "The South as a whole owes a debt of gratitude to Wade for bringing national recognition to this section of the country. In the departure of Coach Wade for Duke at the end of the present season, The University of Alabama has lost a great coach, a builder of character, a teacher of ideals, and a man who has commanded the respect of students, fans, and sportsmen. When the whistle sounded ending the game against Georgia, the vast crowd rose and cheered long and loud for the man who had done so much for Alabama and southern football."

The Crimson Tide totally dominated its opposition in 1930, outscoring its nine regular season opponents 247 to 13. It had beaten very good teams in Tennessee, Vanderbilt, and Georgia, that finished a combined 24-5-1. The Rose Bowl invited Alabama to oppose Washington State on New Year's Day, 1931.

Frank Howard played on the 1930 team and is in the College Football Hall of Fame, but due to his coaching days more so than his playing days. Howard was born in Barlow Bend, Alabama, on a large farm. Later in life, Howard was jokingly called "The Baron of Barlow Bend." He graduated from Murphy High School in Mobile, which he said was "three wagon greasings from Barlow Bend."

While playing for Wade at Alabama, Howard developed into a good player. But Howard was a character off the field and on. He remembered, "In my senior year, I had a date lined up with this pretty little ol' girl. It was my first date with her. I was in the bathroom shaving and getting all pretty when Coach Wade walked in. He didn't like for you to go with girls. 'Howard,' he said, 'what are you doing tonight?' 'Nothing, Coach. Not a thing,' I replied. 'Well, I want you to come around and baby sit with my two children,' Coach Wade said. 'Be there at 7:30. Mrs. Wade and I are going to the picture show.' So, I had to call that gal and tell her I couldn't make it. Coach paid me a whole 25 cents to baby sit. And, you know, I never did get a date with that gal again."

In 1931, Coach Wade asked Jess Neely, a former player under Wade at Vanderbilt and an assistant coach under Wade at Alabama in 1930, to consider hiring Howard at Clemson. Neely was starting his first year as head coach of football in Death Valley. Neely hired Howard as his line coach for \$2,200. Howard recalled that in addition to being the line coach in football and the head track coach, "I also managed the ticket sales, recruited players, and had charge of the equipment room. In my spare time, I cut the grass,

lined the tennis courts, and operated the canteen while the regular man was out to lunch."

After Neely left to become head coach at Rice in 1940, Howard was nominated at a Clemson Athletic Council meeting to take Neely's place. Howard, standing in the back of the room, said, "I second the nomination." He got the job and won 165 games at Clemson from 1940 to 1969, while also serving as athletic director.

Frank Howard and Bear Bryant were lifetime friends, and genuinely enjoyed each other's company. Howard recalled one incident involving the two of them and Hayden Fry, the Iowa coach:

"A bunch of us from around the country got invited every year to a coaches' golf outing. One year the event was in Arkansas where a river ran right alongside the golf course. The organizers, knowing I didn't play golf, arranged for me to go fishing down the river. Now that I liked. On my way to meet the fishing guide, I ran into Coach Fry. He said it sounded like fun and came along.

"When we got to the river, we found we were going to drift the river in a canoe, not a boat. After we got under way, the guide told Coach Fry to pick a lure out of the tackle box and tie it on the end of his line. I guess Hayden figured, 'the bigger the better!' He picked out a big ol' spinner lure and cast it out with all his might.

"You'll never believe this, but the thing sailed a mile high, went up in a tree alongside the bank, and hooked a squirrel! The squirrel tumbled out of the tree, splashed into the river, and Coach Fry stood up in the canoe to reel him in. Between him standing and me dying of laughter, the canoe tipped over. We're lucky we didn't all drown.

"Soaking wet, we managed to make it to the river bank. When we climbed up, we found ourselves on the edge of one of the fairways of the golf course. And who is coming down in the next foursome but the Bear. 'Frank, what in the world happened to you?' Coach Bryant asked. 'Well, Bear, I'll tell you,' I answered. 'Everybody's always told me that you could walk on water, so I thought I'd try it myself.'"

Alabama went on to beat Washington State in the 1931 Rose Bowl 24 to 0 to claim its third national title under Coach Wade. Wallace Wade's impact on the Alabama football program will forever be felt. He simply established the tradition of outstanding football in Tuscaloosa. His record speaks for itself. He won over 80 per cent of his games, won the first four conference championships in the history of Alabama football, and won its first three national titles. Denny Stadium, what is now Bryant-Denny Stadium, was started with funds from the 1926 and 1927 Rose Bowl teams of Coach Wade's. Wade picked his successor, Frank Thomas. Probably most notable of all is that the fame of his great teams reached over state lines to capture the imagination of a young country boy growing up in Arkansas. As Allen Barra wrote in *The Last Coach*, "Bryant, who would become as awe-inspiring as any coach to ever step onto a college field, never got over his awe of Wallace Wade." Bear Bryant never got to play for Coach Wade, but Wade was certainly a huge factor in Bryant coming to Tuscaloosa to play for the Crimson Tide. ■

Editor's Note: Lewis Bowling is author of *Wallace Wade: Championship Years at Alabama and Duke*, and this article is from that book, which is available at University Supply Store and Bryant Museum in Tuscaloosa or by calling 919-489-7486 or at Amazon.com.

'BAMA Scorecard

Notebooking Crimson Tide Sports

Football Honors

Regardless of how many national awards are won by 2009 Alabama football players, it is almost certainly an unprecedented number who remained in the running for the individual honors late in the season. Many of the awards were to be announced at the College Football Awards Show in Orlando on December 10.

Long considered the nation's top award, the Heisman Trophy is presented at the New York Athletic Club in New York in early December. Although he was not a pre-season choice for the award, Alabama sophomore running back Mark Ingram emerged by mid-season as a solid choice, and as the Tide headed down the stretch of regular season play many considered Ingram the favorite.

Ingram was one of 16 semifinalists for the Maxwell Award, given annually to the best player in college football and is on the Doak Walker Watch List as the nation's best running back.

Linebacker Rolando McClain and nose tackle Terrence Cody were among 12 semifinalists for the Lombardi Award, given to the nation's top lineman or linebacker, and the duo were among 16 semifinalists for the Chuck Bednarik Award, given to the best defensive player. McClain is also a finalist for the Bronko Nagurski Award, given to the nation's top linebacker.

Cornerback Javier Arenas is one of 12 semifinalists for the Jim Thorpe Award, given to the nation's best defensive back.

Leigh Tiffin was a semifinalist for the Lou Groza Award, given to the nation's best placekicker. Tiffin became Alabama's all-time leading career scorer this season and was a three-time Groza Player of the Week.

A number of players have been on "Watch Lists," including Colin Peek on the John Mackey for best tight end; and Cody and offensive guard Mike Johnson for the Outland Trophy for the best lineman.

Academic Honors

Senior tight end Colin Peek and freshman offensive lineman Barrett Jones were named All-District Academic team.

Peek has a 3.79 grade point average in finance and was scheduled to be graduated in December. He was a three-time Academic All-ACC player at Georgia Tech, where he played before transferring to Alabama last year. He was Academic All-SEC last year.

Jones, a redshirt freshman, has a perfect 4.0 grade point average in management. He has been a member of the Alabama President's List.

Freshmen Nominees

Alabama has nominated six players for freshman all-star recognition. They are:

Linebacker Nico Johnson, offensive lineman Barrett Jones, defensive back Dre Kirkpatrick, running back Trent Richardson, tight end Michael Williams, and defensive back Rod Woodson.

Cross Country Success

For the first time in school history, the sixth-ranked Alabama men's cross country team claimed back-to-back SEC Championships. The meet was held at the Ole Miss Cross Country Course in Oxford.

"I just give the guys a lot of credit for competing hard on a not so ideal day," Cross Country Coach Joe Walker said. "It was rough on everybody with these tough conditions, but you could tell that our guys kept fighting even when they weren't necessarily competing at their best."

Alabama became the first team other than Arkansas to win consecutive titles since Tennessee did so in 1989-90.

"I think it's great that we can start our own streak at this meet now," Walker said. "It's definitely something you can feed on and Arkansas used that to their advantage when they were the team to beat."

"To be able to repeat in this conference is a true blessing and I'm real proud of these guys," Alabama Track & Field Coach Harvey Glance said. "They came out to prove they were the best team in the conference and they did just that."

On a course still underwater in many places due to constant rainfall, the Crimson Tide were paced to their third conference title in school history by Moses Kiptoo who finished sixth with a time of 24:57.75. Tyson David followed in seventh and a time of 24:58.45. Both earned first team All-SEC honors.

Earning second team All-SEC were Fred Samoei (25:10.73) and Julius Bor (25:16.52) who crossed the line in 12th and 14th places, respectively.

Emmanuel Bor (25:26.27) and Andrew Kirwa (25:27.20) just missed earning another All-SEC accolade as they finished in 17th and 18th, respectively.

Jeff Palmer (26:59.76), Nathan Corder (27:40.66) and Austin Duckworth (27:52.28) rounded out the Tide finishers.

Arkansas, ranked 28th in the nation, made Alabama earn the title, finishing just five points behind in second by a score of 56-61. No. 24 Auburn finished third with 86 points. Florida (120) and

Georgia (133) rounded out the top five in team scoring.

Barnabas Kirui of Ole Miss repeated as individual champion with a time of 24:24.75.

Bama's Walker earned his second consecutive SEC Coach of the Year honor. It was his third such honor.

The Alabama women's team finished fifth, its best SEC performance in a number of years.

Green Cited

Alabama sophomore forward JaMychal Green has been selected pre-season second team All-Southeastern Conference by sports reporters covering the SEC basketball media days event in Birmingham.

Green was Freshman All-SEC last year.

Soccer Honor

Alabama sophomore Justine Bernier of Oakville, Ontario, was named to the All-SEC second team. It is the second honor of her brief career. She earned All-Freshmen team in 2007.

"Justine is certainly deserving of this recognition," Alabama Coach Todd Bramble said. "She does everything a high quality goalkeeper is expected to do. She's a confident, vocal leader while being technically sound and consistently making good decisions. The best news, however, is that she will respond to this by wanting to work harder to get better individually and to improving our team overall."

Bernier finished the 2009 season leading the conference in saves with 116 and 6.44 saves per game. Her 116 stops rank fourth all-time in the Alabama single season annals. She tallied four shutouts and her .817 saves percentage ranks eighth all-time at The Capstone.

Developing Story

Former Alabama men's basketball standout Alonzo Gee was selected with the sixth overall pick by the Austin Toros in the NBA Development League Draft.

Gee, who graduated from Alabama in

December of 2008, completed his on-court career for the Crimson Tide last season as the team's leading scorer with 15 points and 7.2 rebounds per game to earn second team all-SEC honors. The 6-6, 220-pound guard/forward finished his four-year career 11th all-time at Alabama in scoring with 1,630 career points.

After spending time in various NBA camps over the summer, Gee will get the opportunity to continue his professional basketball career with the Toros. The squad, which is the D-League affiliate of the San Antonio Spurs, finished second in the Southwest Division last season with a 32-18 record. The Toros have an excellent track record of player development with 11 players in the last two seasons earning call-ups to NBA rosters.

The Official Crimson Blazer



100% worsted wool in year-round weight. Single breasted, Center Back Vent

Interior lining is Black & White Houndstooth

Available in Short, Regular, & Long
Sizes 40 Short - 52 Long
\$295.00

Also Available in a pleated trouser
Sizes 30-44
\$135.00

MADE IN THE USA

the Locker Room
EST 1964
Tuscaloosa

1-800-749-0992 | 1218 University Blvd. Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
www.locker-room.biz



University of Alabama

Flag Presentation

Major Andrew McGuire, a 1995 Alabama alumnus and member of the school's Army ROTC program, donated a United States flag to his alma mater.

Major McGuire is serving a combat mission for the US Army in Iraq. McGuire serves in the Alpha Troop 1st Battalion's 230th Cavalry Squadron in Iraq. The flag, which was framed in a glass case with a picture of McGuire and his Kiowa OH58-D aircraft from a July 26, 2009, mission, was presented to Alabama Director of Athletics Mal Moore and the UA Athletics Department. The flag will be displayed in the C.M. Newton Recruiting Room inside Coleman Coliseum.

Excellent Finish

Conditions were not good for the final round of the Isleworth Collegiate Invitational, the final fall event for the Alabama men's golf team. Bama sophomore Bud Cauley posted an even-par round of 72 to capture medalist honors with a 54-hole score of 211 to claim the individual title with a 54-hole score of 211 (five-under-par). The tournament was played at the Isleworth Golf and Country Club in Windermere, Florida.

"What a performance by Bud Cauley," said Alabama Coach Jay Seawell, whose team finished fifth in the powerful field. Bama is

ranked 16th following the fall season.

"That was a championship performance on a championship golf course in tough conditions," Sewell said of Cauley. "He showed why he is a player of the year candidate."

Number one Oklahoma State won the tournament. Florida was second with Georgia fourth and Bama fifth.

Cauley was the only player in the talent-laden field to shoot par or better in all three rounds of the tournament. The Jacksonville, Fla., native made three birdies on the final day and held a sizable lead for much of the round until Stanford's Sihwan Kim sank four birdies on the back-nine to creep into contention, finishing in second at 4-under 212.

Cauley held off the late charge to win his second collegiate event of his career, the first coming at the United States Collegiate Championship last spring. Cauley and Kim were the only two players in the field to finish the event with under-par totals.

UA sophomore Hunter Hamrick, coming off a victory of his own at the Jerry Pate Intercollegiate, finished tied for 16th at 222 (+6) after shooting four-over-par 76 in round three. Redshirt freshman Scott Strohmeyer also carded a 76 (+4) on Tuesday, while finishing tied for 25th at 10-over-par 226 for the tournament. ■

Smart for Life™
Eat Cookies. Lose Weight. It's That Simple.™

Eat Cookies. Lose Weight. It's That Simple.™

Smart For Life™ Eat Cookies. Lose Weight. It's that Simple.™ is a comprehensive weight-loss approach to health and wellness using natural, hunger-controlling foods to deliver visible results. Each Smart Cookie Square is a meal that is scientifically formulated to be a perfect balance of fiber, protein and complex carbohydrates that help naturally suppress the appetite – absolutely no drugs or toxic preservatives are included.

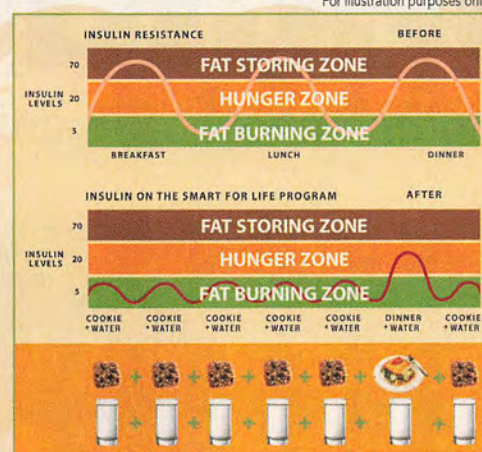
- All-natural, 60% organic ingredients
- Eat Smart Cookie Squares 6 times a day with a low fat, healthy dinner
- Lose approximately 10-15 pounds* per month
- Each order includes instructional brochure, dinner guide and free telephone support

Call 866.291.6187
www.mealcookie.com

*Results may vary.



For illustration purposes only.



Trains you to eat small meals so you can maintain your weight loss.

1 WEEK FREE
Purchase 4 weeks and get the 5th week FREE.
ONLY \$279

Tide Fans Decide

Vote for members of Team of Decade

Alabama football players have done a lot for Crimson Tide fans. Although the first decade of the new millennium hasn't been the greatest in Bama history, there have been a number of very fine players. Now Tide followers have a chance to reward those who were the best at their positions by selecting the Team of the Decade (2000-09).

Alabama fans have been selecting a Team of the Decade since the 1960s. The process has been through **'BAMA** Magazine since the 1970s.

We have prepared a ballot for those who would like to mark and mail. We expect most to go online to BamaMag.com and vote on-line. The Team of the Decade, including the Player of the Decade, the man who receives the most votes regardless of position, will be announced in **'BAMA**.

The ballot should also refresh minds. Not every player at every position for the past 10 seasons is included, but we were careful to list every player who was all-star honoree or who received more than token nomination from fans.

It will not be a surprise, or a reflection on poor research by



Alabama fans, if the voting favors those players from later in the decade. There have been good performers on every Crimson Tide team, but the past two years, particularly, have had big time players. That has been evident in Bama being back among the nation's top teams.

Worthy Bama players from earlier in the decade are not expected to be overlooked. Voters following the 1979 season, when Alabama had won its second straight national championship, rewarded many players from the '78 and '79 Tide teams, but didn't forget the likes of receiver Ozzie Newsome, who completed his eligibility in 1977 and was a runaway selection for Player of the Decade. Jay Barker played even earlier in the decade of the 1990s, when he was top player. And earlier still in his decade, the 1960s, was Lee Roy Jordan, chosen as number one for that period.

It probably helped Barker and Jordan to play on national championship teams, but Newsome and 1980s Player of the Decade Cornelius Bennett did not.

It is interesting that Alabama's four Players of the Decade include two linebackers.

The 1960s All-Decade team had two quarterbacks. The final vote was said to be within a handful. We have never ruled out the possibility of having more than one player at a position if the vote is close enough, and we can see some positions where that might be the case this year.

Vote once, either by mail, or on-line. The important thing is to vote and support Alabama players. ■

Team of the Decade

(2000-09) Ballot

(Vote for the number in parenthesis after position, i.e., vote for one quarterback, two running backs, etc. Ballots may be mailed to 'BAMA Magazine, 2116 8th St, Tuscaloosa AL 35401. If you prefer, you may go online to BamaMag.com to vote.)

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACK (1)

- ☐ Brodie Croyle
- ☐ Greg McElroy
- ☐ Tyler Watts
- ☐ John Parker Wilson
- ☐ Andrew Zow

RUNNING BACK (2)

- ☐ Santonio Beard
- ☐ Tim Castille
- ☐ Glen Coffee
- ☐ Kenneth Darby
- ☐ Ahmad Galloway
- ☐ Mark Ingram
- ☐ Le'Ron McClain
- ☐ Shaud Williams

WIDE RECEIVER (2)

- ☐ Keith Brown
- ☐ Antonio Carter
- ☐ D.J. Hall
- ☐ Julio Jones
- ☐ Jason McAddley
- ☐ Freddie Milons
- ☐ Tyrone Prothro

TIGHT END (1)

- ☐ Terry Jones, Jr.
- ☐ Travis McCall
- ☐ Colin Peek
- ☐ Nick Walker

CENTER (1)

- ☐ Antoine Caldwell
- ☐ J.D. Closner
- ☐ Alonzo Ephraim
- ☐ Paul Hogan

OFFENSIVE LINE (4)

- ☐ Wesley Britt
- ☐ Drew Davis
- ☐ Marlon Davis
- ☐ Mike Johnson
- ☐ Evan Mathis
- ☐ Marico Portis
- ☐ Justin Smiley
- ☐ Andre Smith

KICKERS

PLACEKICKER (1)

- ☐ Brian Bostick
- ☐ Jamie Christenson
- ☐ Leigh Tiffin

PUNTER (1)

- ☐ Lane Bearden
- ☐ P.J. Fitzgerald
- ☐ Bo Freeland

DEFENSE

DEFENSIVE LINE (3)

- ☐ Mark Anderson
- ☐ Anthony Bryant
- ☐ Terrence Cody
- ☐ Brandon Deaderick
- ☐ Wallace Gilberry
- ☐ Jarret Johnson
- ☐ Kenny King
- ☐ Kindal Moorehead
- ☐ Antwan Odom

LINEBACKER (4)

- ☐ Rolando McClain
- ☐ Derrick Pope
- ☐ Saleem Rasheed
- ☐ Cory Reamer
- ☐ Freddie Roach
- ☐ DeMeco Ryans
- ☐ Juwan Simpson
- ☐ Cornelius Wortham

DEFENSIVE BACK (4)

- ☐ Javier Arenas
- ☐ Simeon Castille
- ☐ Gerald Dixon
- ☐ Roman Harper
- ☐ Rashad Johnson
- ☐ Anthony Madison
- ☐ Charlie Peprah
- ☐ Ramzee Robinson
- ☐ Marcus Spencer



University of Alabama

2009 Alabama Winter Sports Schedule

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time*
Nov. 4	North Alabama	5:30
Nov. 8	Crimson-White scrimmage	2:00
<i>Islander Classic @ Corpus Christi, Tex.</i>		
Nov. 13	Tennessee Tech	5:00
Nov. 14	Air Force/TAMU-CC	5/7:30
Nov. 17	Jackson St	5:30
Nov. 21	@ Belmont	5:00
Nov. 24	SE Louisiana	6:00
<i>Holiday Beach @ San Luis Obispo, Cal.</i>		
Nov. 28	Cal St-Bakersfield	6:30
Nov. 29	Illinois	4:00
Dec. 4	@ Alabama St	6:00
Dec. 6	NW State	2:00
Dec. 14	@ UCF	6:00
Dec. 16	@ Florida A&M	5:00
Dec. 21	Presbyterian	11:30
Dec. 30	Southern Miss	5:30
Jan. 3	Georgia	2:00
Jan. 7	@ Ole Miss	7:00
Jan. 10	South Carolina	2:00
Jan. 14	@ Auburn	6:00
Jan. 17	@ Kentucky	1:00
Jan. 21	Florida	6:00
Jan. 24	Arkansas	2:00
Jan. 28	@ Vanderbilt	7:00
Jan. 31	LSU	2:00
Feb. 4	@ Mississippi St	2:00
Feb. 7	Auburn	2:00
Feb. 14	@ Georgia	1:00
Feb. 18	Tennessee	8:00
Feb. 21	@ Arkansas	2:00
Feb. 25	Mississippi St	6:00
Feb. 28	@ Florida	2:00
March 4-	SEC Tournament	TBA
March 7	@ Duluth, Ga.	

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time*
Nov. 4	Montevallo (Exh)	7:30
Nov. 10	Augusta St (Exh)	7:00
Nov. 14	Cornell	TBA
Nov. 17	Jackson St	7:30
Nov. 20	Providence	7:30
<i>Old Spice Classic @ Orlando</i>		
Nov. 26	Baylor	5:30
Nov. 27	FSU/Iona	4/6:30
Nov. 29	TBA	TBA
Dec. 2	North Florida	7:00
Dec. 5	Louisiana-Monroe	12:00
Dec. 12	Purdue	8:00
Dec. 16	Samford	7:00
Dec. 19	Kansas St @ Mobile	TBA
Dec. 23	Mercer	7:00
Dec. 30	Tennessee St	7:30
Jan. 4	@ Toledo	TBA
Jan. 9	@ LSU	4:00
Jan. 13	Vanderbilt	8:00
Jan. 16	@ Arkansas	12:30
Jan. 19	Tennessee	6:00
Jan. 23	Mississippi St	11:00
Jan. 27	LSU	7:00
Jan. 30	@ Auburn	3:00
Feb. 4	Florida	6:00
Feb. 6	@ Ole Miss	5:00
Feb. 9	@ Kentucky	8:00
Feb. 13	Arkansas	3:00
Feb. 20	@ Georgia	3:00
Feb. 24	@ Mississippi State	8:00
Feb. 27	Ole Miss	1:00
March 3	@ South Carolina	6:00
March 6	Auburn	12:30
March 11-14	SEC Tournament @ Nashville	TBA

Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 8	@ Auburn	7:00
Jan. 15	Georgia	7:30
Jan. 22	Arkansas	7:30
Jan. 30	Penn State & Minnesota @ PSU	6:30
Feb. 5	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 12	Florida	7:30
Feb. 19	Arizona	7:30
Feb. 26	@ Kentucky	6:00
March 5	@ Oklahoma	TBA
March 19	Michigan	7:30
March 27	SEC Championships @ Jacksonville, Fla.	3:00
April 10	NCAA Regionals	TBA
April 22-	NCAA Championships	TBA
April 24	@ Gainesville	

Men's & Women's Swimming & Diving

Date	Opponent	Time
Oct. 3	@ Georgia Tech Invite	
Oct. 10	Vandy, Centenary	
Nov. 6	LSU	3:00
Nov. 12	@ Auburn	2:00
Nov. 19-21	Tennessee Invitational	
Dec. 4-6	Ohio State Diving	
Dec. 17-19	Bama Diving	
Jan. 3-5	Georgia Diving	
Jan. 16	Kentucky	12:00
Jan. 23	New Orleans	12:00
Jan. 30	Georgia, South Carolina @ Athens	1:00
Feb. 17-20	SEC Championships @ Athens	
Feb. 27-28	Bulldog Invitational	
March 6-7	Last Chance @ Auburn	
March 12-	NCAA Zone	
March 14	@ Athens	
March 18-	Women's NCAA	
March 20	@ Lafayette, Ind.	
March 25-27	Men's NCAA @ Columbus, Ohio	

*All Times central

THE ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE® Flag Collection

**Celebrate
every month
of the year
with your
favorite team!**

**Handsome
metal flag pole
included at
NO ADDITIONAL
CHARGE!**

Flags
shown much
smaller
than actual
size of
approximately
28" x 40."

The perfect way to share the magic of each season with your family and friends.

Now you can display your Alabama pride all year long! Presenting *The Alabama Crimson Tide® Flag Collection*, a series of colorful outdoor flags featuring a different Crimson Tide® scene for each month. Each of these 12 vibrantly colored flags features a unique design, created exclusively for Willabee & Ward, that celebrates your passion for the incomparable Alabama Crimson Tide®. They are crafted of machine-washable, water-proof material that will remain fade-resistant season

after season of outdoor or indoor use. What's more, you'll receive a sturdy metal pole and durable hanging hardware to display your flags—**FREE of charge!**

Convenient to acquire; satisfaction guaranteed.

You'll be pleased to discover that *The Alabama Crimson Tide® Flag Collection* is attractively priced at just \$24.95 per flag (plus \$3.95 shipping and service). You will receive one flag per month until your collection is complete. You may cancel at any time and your satisfaction is guaranteed. Order today!

© MBI



Willabee & Ward
47 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06857

RESERVATION APPLICATION

Send
no money
now.

Name _____

Please print clearly.

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

Orders subject to acceptance.

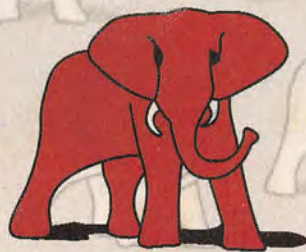
Yes! Please send me the first flag in *The Alabama Crimson Tide® Flag Collection* and reserve a collection in my name as described in this announcement.

2102-FC1

Elephant Wear

**Wrinkle
Free
\$65⁰⁰**

Sizes M-XXL



Elephant Wear

www.theshirtshop.biz



752-6931

Toll Free: 1-877-457-4478

**The
SHIRT
shop**

Mon.-Fri. 7-6pm

Sat. 9-5pm

525 Greensboro Ave